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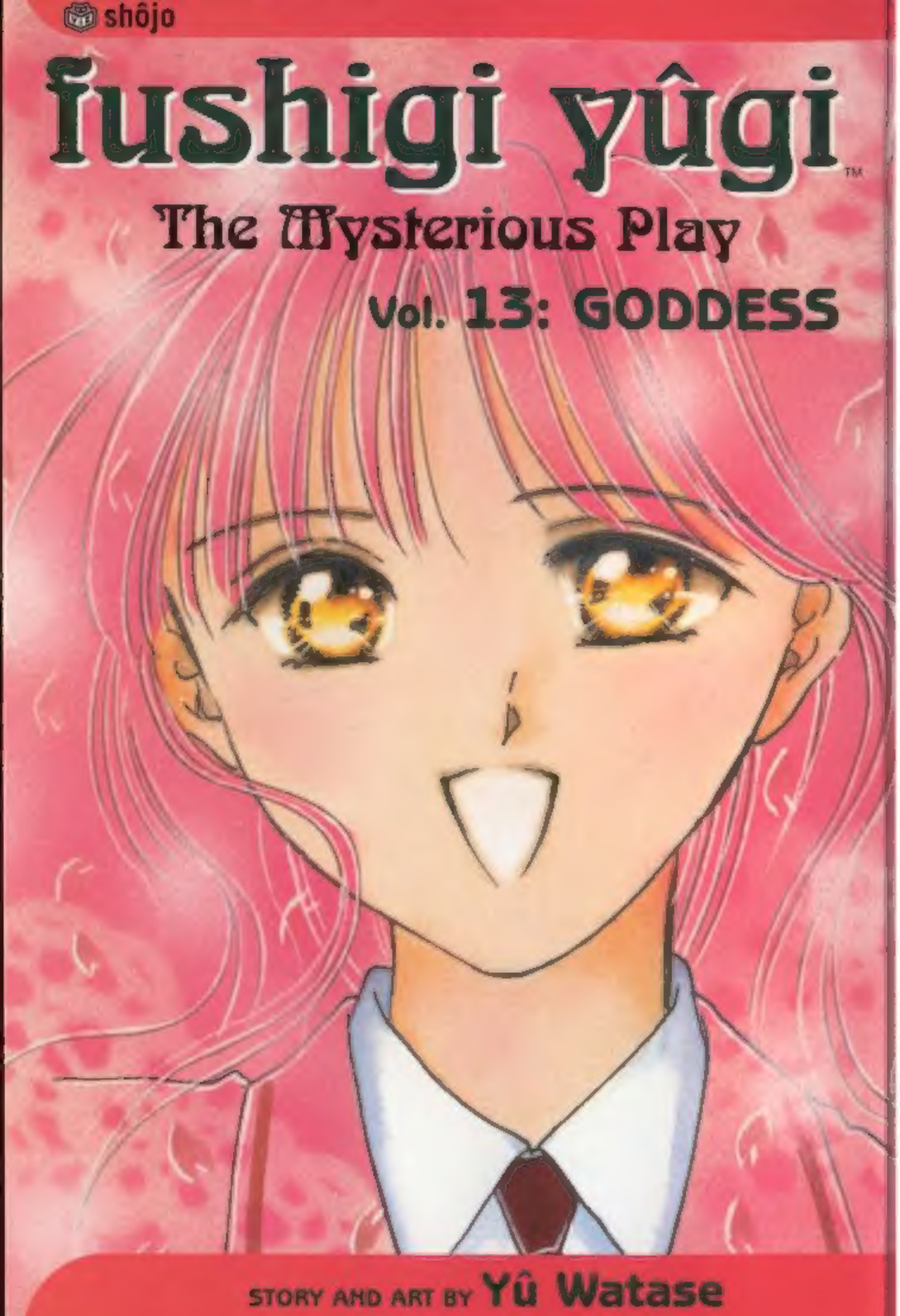
The Mysterious Play

Vol. 13: GODDESS



STORY AND ART BY **Yû Watase**

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The Mysterious Play

13

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GODDESS

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This book reads from right to left.

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The Mysterious Play
VOL. 13: GODDESS

Story & Art By
YÛ WATASE

shôjo

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FUSHIGI YÛGI
THE MYSTERIOUS PLAY
VOL. 13: GODDESS
SHÔJO EDITION

This volume contains the FUSHIGI YÛGI installments from Animerica Extra Vol. 7, No. 8 through Vol. 7, No. 10 in their entirety.

STORY AND ART BY YÛ WATASE

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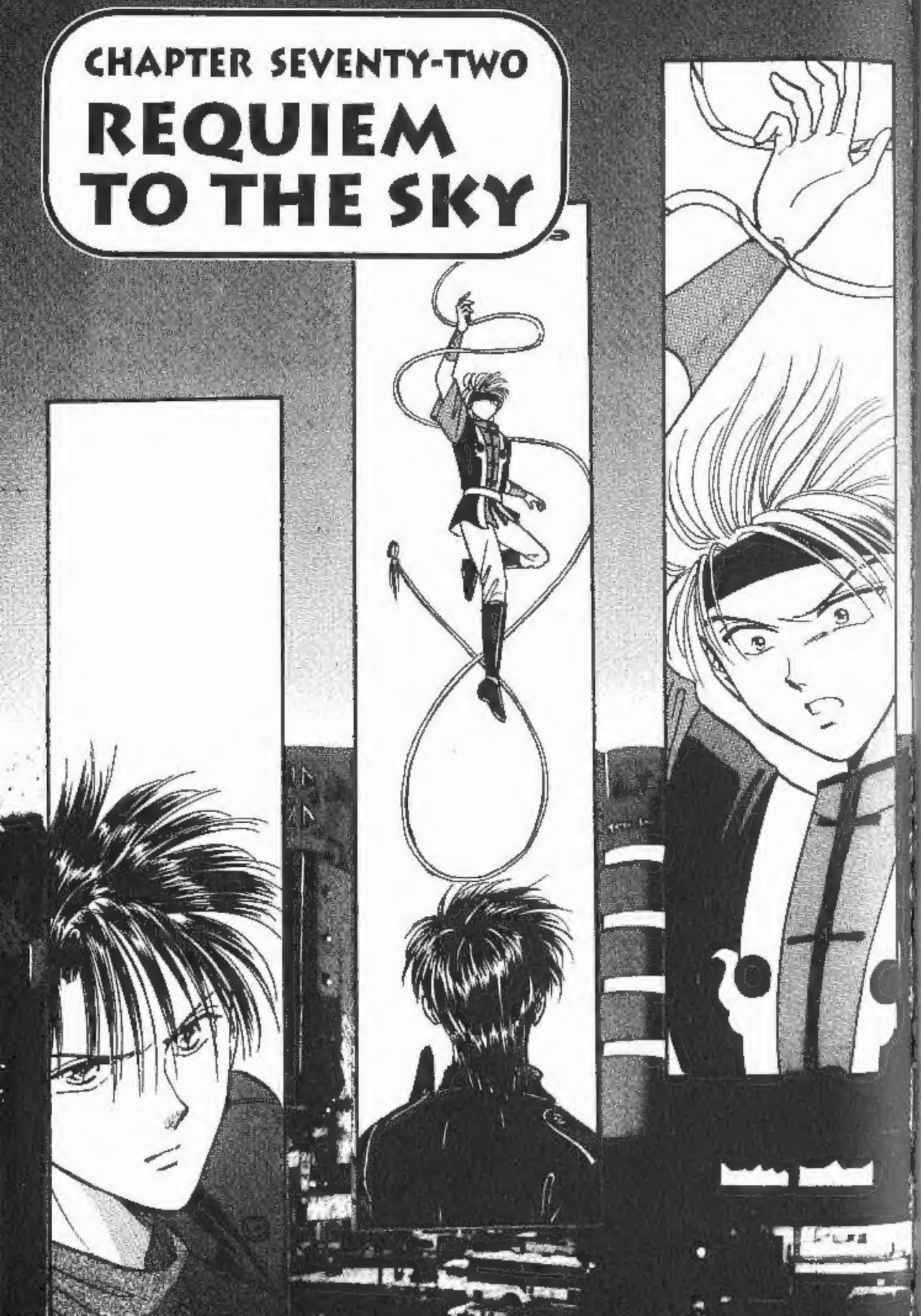
PARENTAL ADVISORY
FUSHIGI YUGI is rated T+ for Older Teens and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains violence, nudity, and sexual situations.



STORY THUS FAR

Miaka is a cheerful junior high school girl who's physically drawn into the world of a strange book – *The Universe of the Four Gods* – where she is offered the role of the lead character, the Priestess of the god Suzaku. Miaka is charged with saving the nation of Hong-Nan, and in the process will be granted three wishes. While Miaka makes a short trip back to the real world, her best friend Yui is sucked into the book only to suffer rape and manipulation, which drives her to attempt suicide. Now, Yui has become the Priestess of the god Seiryu, the bitter enemy of Suzaku and Miaka.

Yui blames Miaka for the torments that she has experienced, and the only way for Miaka to gain back the trust of her former friend is to summon the god Suzaku and wish to be reconciled, so she re-enters the world of the book. It doesn't hurt that going back into the book also grants Miaka the chance to see more of the dreamy Suzaku warrior Tamahome! Unfortunately, Miaka's attempts to summon Suzaku are repeatedly thwarted by the Seiryu Celestial Warriors. Yui, still furious at Miaka and terribly jealous of her budding romance with Tamahome, is bent on revenge and manages to perform the Seiryu summoning ceremony before Miaka can stop her. Yui's first wish seals away Suzaku, leaving the Suzaku Celestial Warriors stripped of their power and forced to fight like normal humans when they come face-to-face with the Seiryu warriors. In the middle of battle, Yui, still determined to separate Miaka and Tamahome, makes her second wish, sending herself and Miaka back to the real world… but Tamahome emerges from the book world with them!

When Yui learns that Tamahome and Miaka have been reunited, she is furious and pledges again to destroy their relationship, calling Suboshi, one of her Seiryu warriors, into the real world to help her. Tamahome is enjoying learning about life in the modern world, but his heart is divided between reveling in Miaka's company and needing to be back in the world of the book, helping to defend Hong-Nan. Miaka learns that even if Tamahome is able to return to Hong-Nan, Yui's second wish to Seiryu means that she will never be able to enter *The Universe of the Four Gods* again! Tamahome overhears Miaka and Keisuke talking about how he is just a fictional character, and is sent into a tailspin of confusion and self-doubt. But then, with his faith in his loyalty and love for Miaka renewed, Tamahome runs to her side to help her fight Suboshi....

The Universe of the Four Gods is based on ancient Chinese legend, but Japanese pronunciation of Chinese names differs slightly from their Chinese equivalents. Here is a short glossary of the Japanese pronunciation of the Chinese names in this graphic novel:

CHINESE	JAPANESE	PERSON OR PLACE	MEANING
Hong-Nan	Konan	Southern Kingdom	Crimson South
Qu-Dong	Kutô	Eastern Kingdom	Gathered East
Bei-Jia	Hokkan	Northern Kingdom	Armored North
Xi-Lang	Sairô	Western Kingdom	West Tower
Tai Yi-Jun	Tai Itsukun	An Oracle	Preeminent Person
Feng-Qi	Hôki	Hotohori's Bride	Rare Phoenix

TAMA-HOME!! YOU'LL BE KILLED! GET OUT OF THERE!!

URR RNN ...

OUTTA THE WAY!

OVER THERE, OFFICER! THOSE TWO OVER THERE...

MOVE, MOVE!

WHERE'S THE FIGHT!?

YAAAH!

WILL YOU *QUIT* RUNNING AWAY, TAMA-HOME!?

WA!
!!
AAAH!
CHASE HIM!
CHASE HIM UNTIL YOU DRILL A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH HIM!

AAAH!
BUT I HAVE TO GET HIM AWAY FROM MIAKA SOMEHOW!
DAMN! I CAN'T MOVE LIKE I USED TO...
DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY FROM ME, TAMA-HOME!
V'WIP
YAAAHH!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
TAMA-HOME...
I'M TALKIN' TO YOU! YOU'RE COMING WITH US!
CATCH THE OTHER ONE!

TAMA-
HOME
!!

東海銀行

HA!
YOU
FOOL!!

YOU'RE
SO
DESPERATE,
YOU
WANT TO
TACKLE
ME?

A NEW
TECHNIQUE?
MY
STRENGTH
WON'T HOLD
OUT MUCH
LONGER!

ALL
I
CAN
DO
IS...

STOP IT!
DO YOU THINK
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING WILL
HELP YUI?

SUBOSHI
!!

AND THE
TWO MEN HIDE
BEHIND
HER.

MIAKA,
LET'S
RUN!

KEI-
SUKE,
BOTH
OF
YOU,
GET
AWAY!!

HEH!
ARE YOU
STILL HERE?
YOU MUST
REALLY WANT
TO DIE.

SUBOSHI
!!

AMI...

...BOSHI...

...YOUR EMI-NENCE...

...YUI !!

KOFF

ノロ

TAMA-HOME !!

URR RRN...

HE'S GONE... !!

WHAT'S WRONG, HUAIKE !?

.....

I'M FINE. THIS AIN'T NOTHIN'!

HUAN-LANG, CAN YOU GO ON!?

HM!?

WHASSA MATTER?

I... DON'T SEE EMPEROR HOTO-HORI!

SO YOU'RE THE GENERAL OF QU-DONG... OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY THE SEIRYU CELES-TIAL WARRIOR NAKAGO!?

OR RATHER, SUZAKU CELESTIAL WARRIOR HOTO-HORI...?

INDEED. AND YOU MUST BE THE FOURTH EMPEROR OF HONG-NAN'S CAIBI DYNASTY...

NO...

JUST THE OPPOSITE. IT'S AS IF MY MISSING HALF FINALLY CAME BACK TO ME.

...AS IF HALF OF ME WAS WRENCHED AWAY...

I SUDDENLY FELT A PANG IN MY CHEST...

I DON'T KNOW...

I WILL.

I WONDER WHY... IT'S ODD. BUT I FEEL FINE NOW, MOTHER, FATHER.

I SEE. SPEAKING OF LOSS... HONG-NAN AND QU-DONG ARE AT WAR RIGHT NOW. I'VE HEARD THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED.

DO THIS, HUAIKE: SEND THEM A REQUIEM... SO THE WAR WILL END QUICKLY.

Goddess

Hello, everyone... it's Watase.
I'm praying for the victims of the Great Hanshin (Kobe) earthquake!! ➡(I was down with a cold at the time.)
Now, it seems I ended my last volume with a lie to you readers. I rambled on in volume 12 about how "the next volume will be the last," and how the story was coming to an end. But I only meant the end of Part One! (I said the same thing on CDs!)
Unlike "Prophetsence" which was a sequel series, Fushigi Yûgi is going to continue with Part Two in the next volume, volume 14!

ONE DAY, WATASE...
ART PAGES FOR PART 2
WAAA AAAA! MOVED TO TEARS. WAAAA!
NAKASOU NAAAA KAAA NOOO!
WHEN ALL OF THE SUDDEN!!
REALLY CRYING.
THE DECISION TO ANIMATE FUSHIGI YUGI FOR TV!!
WHICH MEANS I'LL GET TO SEE MY BELOVED NUKASO ACTUALLY MOVE!!
GAAAA-WOOOOO
OOM

How wild! It's amazing how the unexpected can happen in life. It seems like a dream! I still can't believe it... And so, work on the TV anime series of "Fushig." has begun!! Twinkle, twinkle! ✧✧
But as I write this in early March (1995), I still haven't seen any film, so I can't really say much. But the character designs are wonderful, so please check it out!! Please support it along with the manga!!
With this anime serialization, I feel like I really have to work harder!
I have to improve my skills. I heard that nearly 200 people are going to be involved in the production. I'm not sure if it really deserves that kind of attention... I'm so honored.
So I'm going to work hard.
I have to say that the only animation I've watched in the last few years has been either "Sazae-san" or Kiteretsu Taihyakka ("Kiteretsu's Encyclopedia")... ☞

A FEW THOUSAND PALACE GUARDS PROTECT THE EMPEROR OF QU-DONG. ONLY A FEW THOUSAND. AN EMPEROR WHO HASN'T WON OVER HIS PEOPLE IS LIKE A MAN WHO HAS BUILT A SAND CASTLE. IT CAN BE WASHED AWAY WITH THE FIRST WAVE.
S-SO THIS WAR... WAS JUST A DIVERSION TO FOOL THE EMPEROR OF QU-DONG!? HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE DIED... FOR THAT!?
FOR A SHORT TIME, YOUR ENEMY WILL BE CRUSHED. YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY.
TELL ME ONE MORE THING! WHERE IS THIS OTHER WORLD TO RULE?
IT CAN'T BE ...
I'LL PASS ON YOUR GREETINGS TO YOUR PRIESTESS.
HEH

WHAT !?
MY QU-DONG ARMY AND NAVY ARE BOTH HERE, AND WE COULD EASILY DEFEAT HONG-NAN. BUT I NO LONGER THIRST FOR HONG-NAN'S DOMINATION.
I'M WITH-DRAWING MY TROOPS.
YOU'VE COME TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY! MOST EMPERORS FIND IT SAFER TO HIDE SHIVERING IN THEIR PALACE.
THE EMPEROR HIMSELF SALLIES FORTH INTO BATTLE. ADMIR-ABLE.
NOW THAT MY OWN INTERESTS HAVE PARTED FROM THOSE OF THAT FOOL, THE QU-DONG EMPEROR, IT IS CRUCIAL THAT I ENACT MY PLAN AT ONCE.
MY GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE WORLD. I WOULD HAVE UNITED THE FOUR NATIONS: HONG-NAN, BEI-JIA, XI-LANG, AND QU-DONG. BUT... I FOUND ANOTHER WORLD TO RULE.
PLAN... !?
...SOLDIERS I'VE GATHERED AND TRAINED... AGAINST QU-DONG?
WHY DO YOU THINK I ASSEMBLED ALL THESE SOLDIERS? WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I ORDERED THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM..

GASP

YOUR MAJESTY !!

...SU... ZAKU ...

... GIVE ME STRENGTH !!

SLASH!!

...ALLOW YOU TO STAND IN THE WAY OF THOSE TWO ANY-MORE!!

... I WILL NOT...

TAMA-HOME !

... MIAKA...

YOU FOOL.

HA!

TAMA-HOME ...

LOOK AT ALL HIS BRUISES. HE MIGHT BE BLEEDING INTERNALLY. AT LEAST HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY BROKEN BONES.

WHAT'S WRONG, MIAKA?

THEY FOUND THEIR WAY HOME AMIDST ALL OF THE CONFUSION

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CALLING ME.

UNGH

...MI...

I'M SORRY, MRS YUKI! MY FRIEND GOT A LITTLE DRUNK, AND...

BOW BOW

WHY IS IT MY JOB TO APOLOGIZE?

WE *CAN'T* SEND HIM BACK INTO THE BOOK LIKE THIS, RIGHT, KEISUKE? RIGHT?

...AKA...

BESIDES... EVERYONE IN THE BOOK IS IN SERIOUS DANGER! WHAT CAN I DO!?

MIAKA.

IF... TAMAHOME RETURNS TO THE BOOK, WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

YUI WISHED IT, AND NOW I CAN'T ENTER "THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS."

I'M SO SORRY ...

IT REALLY *IS* MIAKA!! WHAT'S GOIN' ON !?

MIAKA'S... VOICE...

...FROM THE SKY...

HOTOHORI!! TASUKI, CHICHIRI!! CAN YOU HEAR ME!? IT'S ME!!

EH?

... MIAKA.. ?

...MIAKA... THE QU-DONG ARMY... HAS RETREATED. HONG-NAN IS... SAFE NOW.

WHAT ?

...MY ONLY REGRET IS... THAT I FAILED... TO DEFEAT HIM... THAT I COULDN'T STOP HIM...

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T GO BACK THERE ANYMORE! I JUST CAN'T!

!?

ヒソ ヒソ

I JUST READ A BIT, AND...

IT'S ABOUT THE BOOK.

?

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. *OVER HERE.*

HOTO-HORI ...

HOTO-HORI !!

!!

...AND HOTO-HORI'S NEAR DEATH.

MITSU-KAKE PASSED AWAY.

RIGHT HERE. MAYBE YOUR VOICE WILL REACH THEM.

MITSU... KAKE...

HOTO-HORI!!

MIAKA... WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOME DAY...

WE'LL MEET AGAIN... SOMEWHERE... BEYOND OUR WORLDS, BEYOND THE BORDERS OF TIME...

MIAKA... TO HAVE MET YOU ...

I'M SO LUCKY... TO HAVE HAD YOU ALL AS FRIENDS...

BE HAPPY... MIAKA ...

HOTO-HORI! NO! YOU CAN'T DIE!!

I MEAN... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO FENG-QI!?

YOU MUSTN'T TALK, YOUR MAJESTY! NO DA!

TELL TAMAHOME... THAT HE HAS TO STOP HIM... HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN...

"HIM!?" WHO DO YOU MEAN!?

AHH... TRUE... FENG-QI AWAITS ME... MY CHILD...

HEIR TO THE THRONE .. I MUSTN'T DIE... UNTIL I SEE HIS FACE...

YES... THAT'S RIGHT!

HOTO-HORI!

IT'LL BE A BOY. I'M SURE OF IT! JUST LIKE YOU... A BEAUTIFUL BOY! SO YOU CAN'T...!!

NO! I CAN'T TAKE THIS! WHY DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO DIE!?

IF I ONLY SUMMONED SUZAKU... IF I COULD HAVE ONLY SUMMONED SUZAKU... !!

HOTO-HORI!

YOU LIAR !!

HOTO-HORI !

YOU JUST SAID... YOU WOULDN'T DIE...

YOU... LIAR...

PLIP

With that, the Emperor Hotohori breathed his last breath on the field

PLIP

"I LOVED YOU."

"BE HAPPY."

HOTO-HORI...?

KEEP IT SECRET FROM MIAKA...

TAMA-HOME... I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

...I NEED YOU TO RETURN TO THE BOOK ALONE.

LISTEN. THE PRIESTESS WHO SUMMONS THE BEAST-GOD IS, IN FACT, A SACRIFICE.

!?

THE DETAILS ARE IN THE LETTER, BUT YOUR FRIEND YUI IS IN SERIOUS DANGER.

MIAKA, READ THIS LETTER. I FOUND IT AT SUZUNO ŌSUGI'S HOUSE.

...SEIRYU IS THEN FREE TO DEVOUR HER!

IF HER LAST WISH IS GRANTED BY SEIRYU...

ACTU-ALLY...

...IT WAS PROBABLY FOR THE BEST THAT YOU FAILED.

URN ...

... YEAH...

ARE YOU UP?

REALLY? GOOD...

.....

DON'T WORRY... SHE'S FINE.

MIAKA? WHERE'S MIAKA... !?

CHAPTER SEVENTY-THREE
THE CEREMONY

This is the only bonus page for this volume, so I crammed a lot in here. (The page count was pretty tight.)

● *I heard that "Nakago, Shikkari Shinasai" ("Get it Together, Nakago") in the short-story anthology manga "Mint de Kiss Me" ("Kiss Me with Mint") was really popular! I drew that comic after my assistants and I came up with the basic concept. Consider it a longer version of the infamous Fushigi Yûgi, Malicious Play series. I really wouldn't want anyone to take it too seriously (it was a gag manga, after all), but I guess some readers did... Some of them actually got upset! ôôô I guess it shows how much they care about the characters, huh?*

● *Previously, I included illustrations from readers without any permission. Regardless (of whether or not I include them or not), keep on sending those portraits to me. A lot of fans apologize that their drawings don't look like mine. But actually, I prefer the unique ones that aren't trying to copy my style! Don't worry about your skill level!!*

● *By the way, I know everyone hates him, but I'm realizing how much I love Nakago! My editor was showing me the anime character designs (someone else is in charge of character design for the animation). I was admiring the designs, and the last one was Nakago! Suddenly, I felt this surge from deep inside (No, it wasn't vomit!) of emotion. I almost burst into tears. The thing that makes me happiest about the anime show is how he'll be animated and colored. This kind of thing makes me blush a little.*

● *Changing the subject, I received a lot of mail from readers pointing out how characters from a certain popular series appeared in the background of Fushigi Yûgi Vol. 8 and the second Prepubescence series Vol. 3. I wasn't responsible. My assistant, who is a big fan, drew those in. I haven't seen much recent anime, so I don't know much about it. Sorry!*

● *Have you had a chance to listen to CD Book 5? I love, love, love Yoko Ueno's "Deai no Page Kara" ("From the Encounter Page"). Of course, the same applies to all the songs up until now, but this song (lyrically and melodically) is a perfect match!! She said that she wants to sing it at her concerts. It's such a pretty song. (I was just astounded how perfect it was for Chapter 71!)*

THIS IS TURNING INTO A REGULAR FEATURE

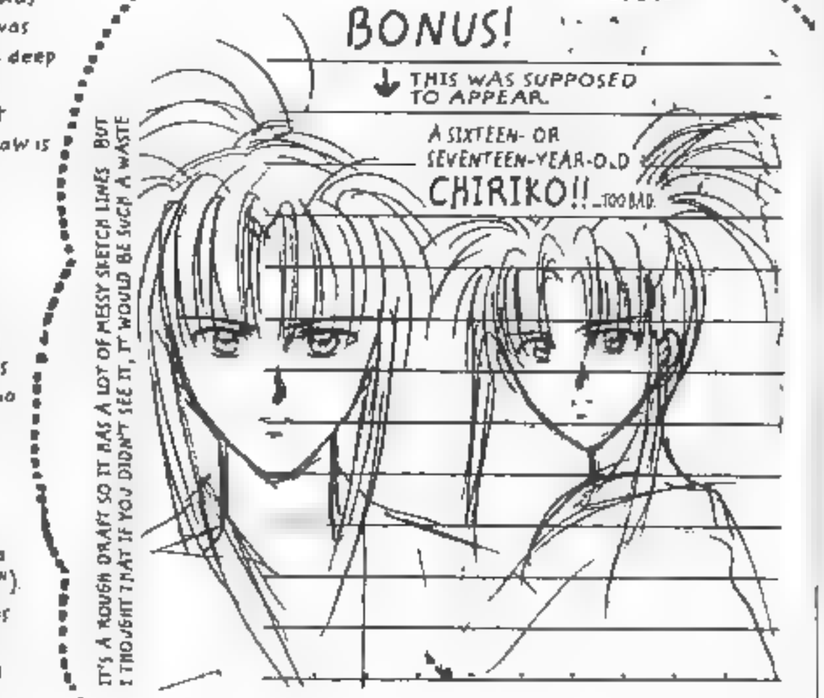
THANK YOU FOR THIS YEAR'S VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS!!

I was so happy! There were many addressed to all the celestial warriors (but mainly the Suzaku warriors). Some of you even sent one box each (containing six chocolates!) for every warrior. I've never received so many chocolates! They were delicious!

BUT SHE'D NEVER RECEIVED SO MANY CHOCO LATES BEFORE.
WATASE WAS ABOUT TO TRY DIETING
OH, BOY! OH, BOY!
...MOST OF THEM WEREN'T REALLY FOR ME. WE'RE IN A GIRL... SO I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT

A CUTE TEDDY BEAR
THANKS SO MUCH
ON BEHALF OF THE BOY THE THREE TOP CHOCOLATE EATERS WOULD LIKE TO SAY
A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL SENT MITSUKAKU A PASSIONATE LOVE LETTER ALONG WITH HER GIFT OF CHOCOLATES!!
THE AMITOSHI LOVE CHOCOLATE WAS INTENSE TOO
IT'S ALL RAW MAGIC!!
The store bought chocolates were nice, but there were homemade chocolates like this.
Someone put chocolate in this shape with the message, "I love Chichiri," where each letter was poured into an individual chocolate. Everyone did a magnificent job filling their chocolates with things like cream, liquor and raisins.
EXCEPTION!
HEY!!
FOR NAKAGO
I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED

BONUS!


THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO APPEAR.
A SIXTEEN- OR SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD CHIRIKO!! ...TOO BAD.
IT'S A ROUGH DRAFT SO IT HAS A LOT OF MESSY SKETCH LINES BUT I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU DIDN'T SEE IT, IT WOULD BE SUCH A WASTE

OKAY, BUT DON'T FORGET TO WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING--

KRAKK

WAIT RIGHT HERE... I'LL BE BACK AFTER SCHOOL.

TAMA- HOME... HOW ARE YOU FEELING ?

MM. I'LL BE FINE.

I WANT TO TAKE THE DAY OFF, BUT... I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE YUI.

MIAKA, THAT'S THE AIR-POT!! YOUR LUNCH IS OVER HERE!!

I'M OFF !!

DOU

KU

KISHI

.....

TAMA- HOME, THE THING WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY ...

TMPPA TMPPA TMPPA KER- SLAM

YEAH, NEXT TIME, I'LL WATCH.

...BUT YOUR APPEARANCE HERE HAS THROWN OFF THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE REAL WORLD AND THE WORLD OF THE BOOK.

MIAKA CAN'T RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE BOOK. SO IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M TELLING YOU TO BREAK UP WITH HER WHEN I ASK YOU TO GO BACK...

ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL?

MIAKA.

HOW IN THE WORLD DID SHE MAKE THAT MIS- TAKE!?

S-SURE. I CAN TRANS-LATE CHINESE ...

REALLY? THANKS... THANK YOU SO MUCH!

...I'D LIKE TO WRITE A LETTER TO MIAKA! IS THAT OKAY?

A LETTER ...

.....

ANOTHER ONE FOR TETSUYA, TOO.

I'D ALSO LIKE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH...

THE DETAILS ARE IN THAT LETTER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN SEIRYU WILL DEVOUR YU!!?

RRRRR

IT'LL END UP HARMING MIAKA. I KNOW THIS SOUNDS HARSH, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE CAPABLE OF KEEPING HER UNDER YOUR CONSTANT PROTECTION?

AT THIS RATE, EVEN *MORE* DISASTROUS THINGS MIGHT OCCUR HERE.

DID YOU SEE HOW SUBOSHI APPEARED IN THE REAL WORLD?

YOU CAN HATE ME, EVEN HIT ME IF YOU WANT! BUT PLEASE, FOR HER SAKE, GO BACK TO THE BOOK!

.....

KLAP

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE ABOUT MIAKA... AND I KNOW HOW MUCH MIAKA LOVES YOU.

SHE'S REALLY JUST AN "AVERAGE JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT," MORE THAN SHE IS "THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU."

ON TOP OF THAT, HER ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE COMING UP, AND THAT'S A CRUCIAL TIME FOR HER IF YOU GO BACK... OUR WORLD MIGHT BECOME NORMAL AGAIN!

WATASE FINALLY SPILLS IT! THE TRUTH BEHIND FUSHIGI YŪGI!!

..by which I mean that I'd like to cover some in-depth personal material this time round. Oh! With regard to Yui, I talked about her in my interview in the Fushigi Yugi Artbook (available in English), so please refer to that. Says Watase as she pushes the book on her readers.

"Fushigi" was a problem manga that actually made me sick (case of nerves?) when it began. Back then, my editor (at the time) said, "To be blunt, I don't think this will do very well." I still recall it clearly. In fact, he said it two or three times.

It was a shock, but at the same time, I also thought that it made sense. I mean, it was serialized in a shōjo manga magazine where school dramas and love stories were right on target. Besides, there were other gifted artists working on inventive stories while I was hardly three years into my career as a manga artist. A rookie with little talent in drawing and story structure (some things never change).

On top of that, my previous serial "Prepubescence" was a school drama, so it seemed unlikely those fans would go for a fantasy story. I realize that my editor was warning me in advance in order to prepare me for the serial's failure. But I got sick to my stomach so many times after the serial began I'd feel so nauseous that I couldn't look at the publications. It's very painful to work on a story that's expected to fail even before it's serialized! But I really wanted to do it. I wanted to take on the challenge. So if anyone's surprised about this story's massive success, it's me! I was half joking when I said it would go past 10 volumes. Try and you shall succeed! Ha ha ha ha ha!

YOU'LL BE THERE TOO... RIGHT?
I'LL GO...TO SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW.
YU--
WILL YUI REALLY BE THERE?
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S BEEN MONTHS FOR ME, BUT ONLY TWO DAYS FOR EVERYONE ELSE!
G-GOOD MORN-ING.
WHAT HAPPENED TWO DAYS AGO? YOU LEFT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEST!
MIAKA !!
GOOD MORN-ING.

SO YOU'RE ALL RIGHT... WHAT ABOUT SUBOSHI...?
HELLO? HELLO? YUI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE STUDYING ...
MIAKA, YOU HAVE A CALL FROM YUI!
... HE'S DEAD.
.....
LET'S JUST SIT DOWN AND TALK! OKAY!?
YUI! COME ON, YUI, WE HAVE TO PUT AN END TO THIS!
.....

YUI !!

IT'S YUI!

SO YOU'RE FINALLY WILLING TO LISTEN TO ME!?

DO YOU MIND IF I CROUCH DOWN? I'M EXHAUSTED.

... SURE.

YOU'RE RIGHT! I DREAMT THAT I BINGED ON SWEETS AND GOT SICK!

PIPE DOWN !!

HA HA HA HA!

YOU WERE PROBABLY NAPPING SOME-WHERE.

SORRY. AND THANKS !!

THE TEACHER SAID HE WAS GOING TO CONTACT YOU, SO WE MADE UP AN EXCUSE FOR YOU.

YOU DIDN'T ANSWER OUR PHONE CALLS EITHER

HERE'S YOUR SCHOOL BAG. WE HELD ONTO IT FOR YOU.

I HEARD YOSHIMURA'S TRYING TO GET INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL AFFILIATE OF T UNIVERSITY, SECOND ONLY TO JONAN HIGH!

WHSPR

THAT WAS HARSH.

WE'RE TRYING TO STUDY HERE. BE QUIET!

AH!

BUT NOW IT FEELS SO DISTANT.

ONLY THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY... I WAS PART OF THAT.

TAKING THE ENTRANCE EXAMS WAS MY ENTIRE WORLD! I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE...

.....!?

IT'S FROM EINOSUKE OKUDA, THE TRANSLATOR OF "THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS." IT'S ADDRESSED TO TAKAO ŌSUGI, HIS OLD FRIEND!

HERE. READ THIS LETTER!

AND... NO, IT ISN'T! NAKAGO JUST WANTED SEIRYU'S POWER FOR HIS OWN!

YOU'RE LYING... THAT'S A *LIE!!*

During a sojourn in China, I found an ancient scroll, an epic called "The Universe of the Four Gods."

My dear Takao,

There is nowhere else to turn. Time is growing very short.

Because I am by nature a writer, I dedicated myself to translating the book. I succeeded in completing this translation.

My daughter became the protagonist of the romantic epic. She summoned the beast-god Genbu, then returned to me.

But the book claimed my daughter, Takiko... Too late did I discover that the book has magical powers.

SO NOW... NAKAGO IS THE ONLY ONE ON MY SIDE.

YUI, LISTEN TO ME! NAKAGO *ISN'T* YOUR ALLY AT ALL!

YOU WERE NEVER RAPED BY THOSE MEN!

THIS RIBBON IS FOR YOU. SUBOSHI WAS HOLDING IT WHEN HE PASSED AWAY.

I WASN'T WEARING MY SCHOOL UNIFORM IN THIS WORLD WHEN IT HAPPENED, AND THAT'S WHY YOUR CRY FOR HELP DIDN'T REACH ME! HE MANIPULATED YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT SO YOU'D HATE ME!!

NAKAGO RESCUED YOU IN THE NICK OF TIME, BUT HE NEVER TOLD YOU THE TRUTH. THAT WAY WE'D END UP AS ENEMIES.

.....?

I MEAN, IF WHAT SHE SAID WAS TRUE...

...THEN WHY DID I *HATE* HER FOR ALL THIS TIME...?

IT'S A LIE! IT HAS TO BE.

YUI!!

KACHAK

!!

NAKAGO... DID YOU KNOW...?

"...OTHERWISE YOUR LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER."

WHAT'S THIS...?

I would rather she die by my hand than be devoured in this way. So I shall end her suffering, then kill myself as well.

But she was in constant torment. . Every time a wish was granted, Genbu would consume her, little by little.

BUT I GUESS MR. ŌSUGI COULDN'T SEAL THE BOOK AWAY, AND HIS DAUGHTER WAS SWALLOWED BY THE BOOK TO BECOME THE PRIESTESS OF BYAKKO!

"My dear friend, please find a way to seal this book away for all eternity Consider it my final wish."

But first, this book must be destroyed. Unfortunately, fire does it no harm.

I am convinced the book is waiting for more priestesses.. The remaining priestesses of Byakko, Suzaku, and Seiryu.

YOU'RE LYING...

SHE WASN'T DEVOURED! IF YOU HAVE A POWERFUL WILL, A STRONG HEART, YOU CAN BEAT THE BEAST-GOD! YUI, PLEASE BELIEVE ME!

IT'S ALL A LIE!!

7

YOU MUST HURRY! THIS IS THE WAY OUT!!

!!

SLAT!

ANSWER ME, NAKAGO !!

YOUR MAJESTY !!

YOU MUST ESCAPE NOW! OUR OWN QU-DONG ARMY IS--

AN UP-RISING... ?

YOU MASSACRED MY TRIBE.

NOW YOU WILL FEEL THE AGONY YOU INFLICTED.

GA-- AAAA AAA ...

BE GONE!

N- NAKAGO. YOU'D BETRAY YOUR EMPEROR ?

HEH. THIS IS THE END, YOUR MAJESTY.

AS MIGHTY AS THE QU-DONG ARMY IS, THE LARGEST PORTION CONSISTS OF MERCENARIES. THE FOREIGN COMPANY.

AS I, TOO, AM A FOREIGNER... BETRAYAL? I NEVER PLEDGED LOYALTY TO YOU IN MY LIFE!

AA AA AA AA!

NA-- NA- KAGO !!

EE YA AA AH !

P- PLEASE... AT LEAST, SPARE MY LIFE!

WHAT DO YOU WANT!? MONEY? THE THRONE!?

NAKAGO !!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? I'VE LOOKED AFTER YOU SINCE YOU WERE ELEVEN YEARS OLD!

TAMA-HOME!

ONI AND THANK YOU FOR THE AUTOGRAPH. I'LL TREASURE IT.

TAMA-HOME... ARE YOU READY?

TAMA-HOME !!

BA

MM

I TOLD YUI EVERYTHING I COULD. NOW I JUST HAVE TO TRUST HER.

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO.

...TO SEE THIS TO ITS CONCLU-SION.

NOTHING ELSE ...

"HE'LL PROBABLY END UP DOING JUST THAT."

"I THINK HE'LL HAVE TO RETURN TO 'THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS'..."

I TOOK CARE OF THE EMPEROR... NOW SLAUGHTER HIS FAMILY, THE MINISTERS, AND THE NOBILITY.

TMP TMP TMP

GEN-ERAL! UGH!

IS YOUR ARM ALL RIGHT, SIR?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. NOW, I MUST BE GOING ...

KEISUKE TOLD ME... ABOUT HIS MAJESTY HOTOHORI... AND MITSU-KAKE...

I KNEW THAT I HAD TO GO BACK. I BELONG TO THE BOOK.

BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT. NOW THAT I'M HERE, I SEE THAT YOU HAVE YOUR OWN LIFE.

BUT YOU PROMISED! YOU SAID WE'D NEVER BE APART !

HERE IS WHERE YOU HAVE TO LIVE.

IT WAS EASY TO MAKE SELFISH PROMISES WHEN I KNEW NOTHING.

BUT NOW I UNDER-STAND WHAT TATARA MEANT.

EVEN IF I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, AS LONG AS YOU FIND HAPPINESS, THAT WILL MAKE ME HAPPY.

"OUR HEARTS WERE ENTWINED, SO WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER..."

MIAKA! WHAT HAP-PENED AT SCHOOL !?

HUFF HUFF

I THOUGHT SO!

MIAKA !!

HUFF HUFF

HUFF HUFF

MY BROTHER PUT YOU UP TO THIS, RIGHT !?

NO. IT WAS *MY* DECISION.

YOU'RE LYING !!

.....

YOU WERE GOING TO... RETURN TO THE BOOK? WITHOUT TELLING ME?

YOU'RE NOT MADE UP! I NEED YOU SO MUCH!

THAT WE'D STAY TOGETHER AND LIVE TOGETHER.

YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU'D KEEP LOVING ME!

I'LL DO ANYTHING! I'LL EVEN BECOME A BETTER COOK! *SNIF SNIF*

PLEASE... STOP TALKING ABOUT LEAVING ...

PLEASE... TAMA-HOME ...

NOT SOME CHARACTER IN A BOOK, BUT A REAL PERSON.

IF IT WAS OUR FATE TO MEET... THEN MAYBE THERE'S A DIFFERENT "ME" HERE IN THIS WORLD.

BESIDES... I REALIZED ...

I CAN'T BE HAPPY WITHOUT YOU !!

WHY!? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?

PRETTY STUPID, HUH? *HA HA!*

!?

YOUR EMI-NENCE...

NAKAGO, ANSWER ME...

NAKAGO...

...I BOUGHT THESE RINGS FROM A STREET VENDOR LAST SUMMER...

WE WEAR THE RING ON OUR FOURTH FINGER OF OUR LEFT HAND.

...LET'S HAVE...

...OUR WEDDING CEREMONY. THE TWO OF US.

BUT... HOW'S IT DONE HERE IN THIS WORLD?

TEACH ME, HUH?

I LOVE YOU!

WE'VE BECOME ONE HUMAN HEART.

WE WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER, BUT NOTHING CAN STAND IN OUR WAY NOW.

...OUR ETERNAL LOVE...

THEN WE PLEDGE...

...IN A VOW.

...ONLY YOU!

NOW AND FOREVER...

...WE'VE BECOME HUSBAND AND WIFE.

NOW...

AH !

DID YOU CALL ME ...

... YOUR EMI- NENCE ?

NAKAGO !!

CHAPTER SEVENTY-FOUR
EVEN IF IT TAKES MY LIFE

MOM !!

BAMM

W-- WAIT A SECOND--

AH!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

I WISH...

...THAT TIME WOULD JUST STOP!

THAT WE COULD STAY IN THE MOMENT FOREVER... FOREVER!

N-NAKAGO... YOU CAME OUT... OF THE BOOK!?

YOUR EMI-NENCE...

...IF YOU'D APPROACH ...

FINALLY! I'VE BECOME TAMA-HOME'S BRIDE!

"WE'VE BECOME HUSBAND AND WIFE."

ARE YOU AN INFANT, OR DO YOU JUST *THINK* LIKE ONE!?

WHERE'S KEISUKE!? WHERE IS HE!? *HERE* HE IS!

KEI-SUKE!

MOM, STOP!

MIAKA! WHAT KIND OF DAUGHTER *ARE* YOU!? YOU HAVE EXAMS TO STUDY FOR!! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

IT'LL RUIN HER CHANCE TO GET INTO JONAN!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? SHE CAN'T GET ALL CAUGHT UP IN SOME GIRLISH CRUSH!

TREAD LIGHTLY HERE, MOM! THE TWO OF THEM DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT!

DO YOU HAVE TO CORNER MIAKA WITH THAT TALK *EVERY TIME!?*

THEY TOLD ME THAT ON SATURDAY YOU RAN OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF SCHOOL!

YOUR SCHOOL CALLED ME AT THE STORE.

MOM! WHY? WHAT ABOUT THE SUPER-MARKET?

MIAKA, GRAB TAMAHOME AND RUN!

AND WHO IS THAT BOY--?

KEISUKE, LET GO OF ME!

MIAKA! SO YOU *WERE* SEEING A BOY!!

SCARF.

LEAVE *THIS* BATTLE TO ME!

KEI-SUKE!

TMP

TMP

SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

WE FOUGHT, AND RIGHT AFTER-WARDS, I WENT INSIDE THE BOOK.

"YOU CAN JUST TAKE THE EXAM *FOR* ME!!"

JUST LIKE WHEN ALL THIS STARTED.

TAMA-HOME ...

I'M SORRY... CAN YOU WAIT HERE?

I'M GOING BACK HOME...

BUT... I CAN'T JUST GO INTO THE BOOK LIKE I DID BEFORE. I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO RUN TO ANYMORE.

STOP IT, WILL YOU!? GIVE HER A LITTLE FREE-DOM!

SHE FELT MORE ALIVE INSIDE THE PAGES OF A BOOK THAN SHE EVER DID HERE! IT'S SO STUPID!

I'LL TELL YOU, BUT YOU PROBABLY STILL WON'T GET IT! LISTEN TO YOU! ALL YOU DO IS TALK ABOUT EXAMS, EXAMS, AND MORE EXAMS, UNTIL MIAKA IS *FORCED* TO ESCAPE INSIDE A BOOK!

...WILL YOUR MOTHER BE ALL RIGHT?

MIAKA ...

HUFF HUFF

HUFF HUFF

KEISUKE ...

松本

.....

MIAKA TOLD ME. SHE SAID YOU KNEW THE TRUTH AND KEPT IT FROM ME.

I WAS NEVER RAPED BY THOSE MEN, WAS I?

YOUR EMI-NENCE ...

NAKAGO, I WANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH.

WELL !?

BUT MIAKA SAID THAT YOU WERE ONLY *USING* MY DESIRE FOR SEIRYU'S POWER! YOU MANIPULATED ME INTO BEING HER ENEMY!

...YOU WERE ALWAYS TELLING ME... YOU SAID THAT MIAKA HAD ABANDONED ME.

YOU WERE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE, AND I CAME TO TRUST IN YOU.

WHEN I WAS IN THE BOOK...IN THE OTHER WORLD...EVERY DAY, FROM THE TIME I TRIED TO SLIT MY WRISTS TO THE DAY I MET MIAKA...

YEAH. YOU GO. I'LL WAIT.

I'LL TELL HER ABOUT YOU, TOO.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MY LOVE FOR YOU COULD BE A BAD THING!

I'M GOING TO HAVE A PROPER TALK WITH MOM. NOTHING WILL EVER GET SOLVED WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE.

DON'T WORRY! I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDER-STAND.

YEAH!

I'VE COME TO HELP YOU.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU CALLED *ME* HERE.

NOW...YOU MADE A PROMISE. YOU SAID YOU WOULD SET ASIDE THE FINAL PORTION OF SEIRYU'S POWER FOR ME...

.....

AND WHO IN THE WORLD ARE *YOU!?*

YOU'RE A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, AREN'T YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? CLASS IS IN SESSION!

SEIRYU WAS YOUR ONLY GOAL, WASN'T IT? THAT MEANS...

...YOU KNEW ALL ALONG THAT THE PRIESTESS WOULD BE DEVOURED!

WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOU LOVED ME... THAT WAS A LIE, WASN'T IT?

LOOK !

I WISH YOU'D THINK WELL OF ME FOR RESCUING YOU FROM THOSE MEN, AT LEAST.

ALL I EVER DID WAS HELP YOU.

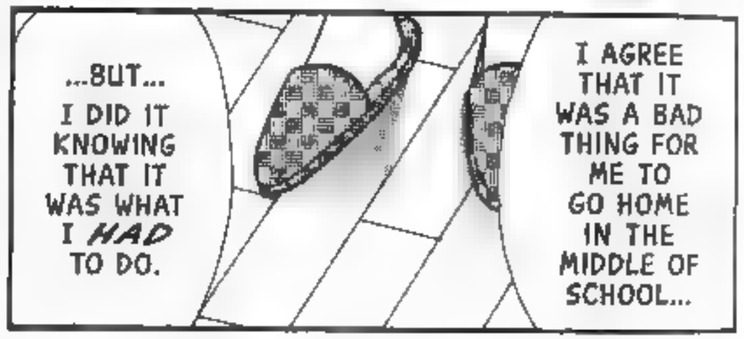
FRIEND-SHIP, JEALOUSY, HATRED... ANY FEELINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE ARE *YOUR* PROBLEM.

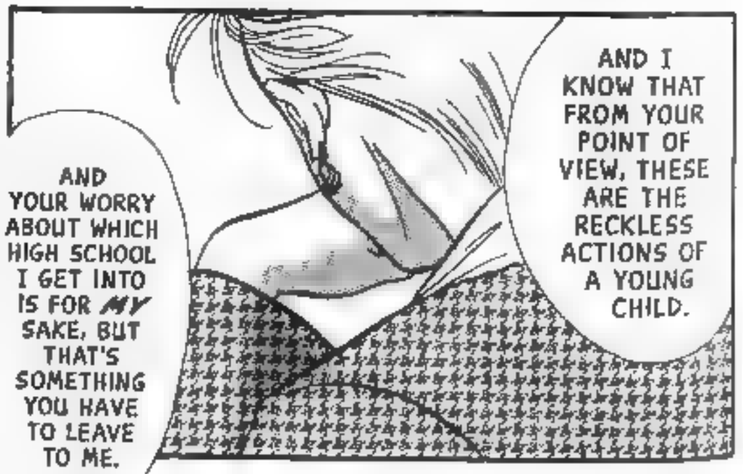
YOU WOUND ME.

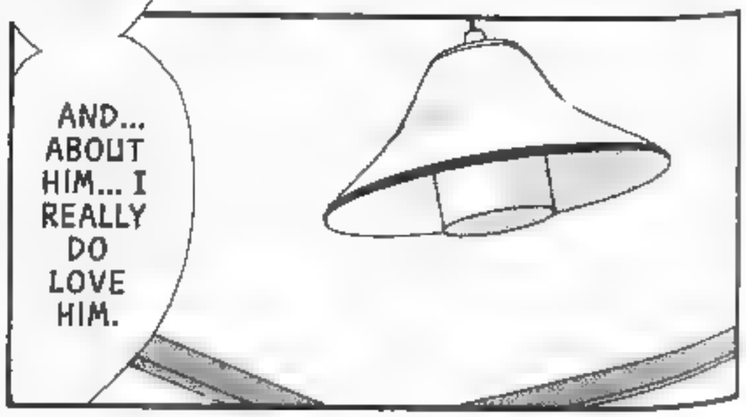
THE ONE WHO BECAME THE ENEMY OF THAT GIRL WAS *YOU!*

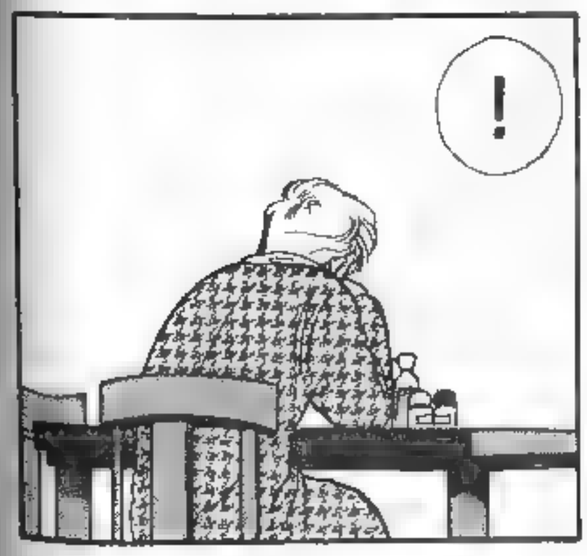
EVEN WHEN YOU SUMMONED SEIRYU, YOU DIDN'T FOLLOW THE RANTINGS OF THAT CHILD. YOU CHOSE MY ADVICE OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL.

So you see that I started Fushigi with real apprehension.
And now that I think of it, there were quite a few comments that Nuriko seems a lot like Yoko from "Prepubescence." And at first, many of those similarities were there on purpose. I wanted the fans of "Prepubescence" to read and enjoy Fushigi. I was single-minded about it! No kidding! ☺ But soon, little by little, Nuriko's character changed by itself until Nuriko was completely different from Yoko.
But no matter how hard I worked, I kept on hearing complaints and grumbles! ☺ "If I had only continued 'Prepubescence,' I wouldn't be feeling this pressure," I said to myself, but now, I think I was being naive. There are certain loyalties that you can't import from one series to another. But I wanted everyone to shout at me, "Wow, you seem like you are having a lot of fun creating this series!" or, "Boy, is this different!" ☺ And soon, I did start to have fun.
"Prepubescence" was a character-driven comedy, so the characters were most important. So for this one, I thought it would be best to make it story-driven. Of course, that's a big exaggeration! But I went with my personal tastes, so I wonder what kind of story it turned out to be. What are my tastes? Oh, come on! You know! Look at all the love scenes! One or two in every installment! Friendship! Fights! Adventure! ...and other staples of the shônen world. But throw sadness in there too ☺ That's what makes it a shôjo manga! But it's also fun! A rip-roaring fantasy was one of my favorite things, but this story wasn't so much that. Human emotions were the basis. For magic and the like, you'll need a better storyteller than me! ☺ I love the saying of an editor, "No work ever became a major work without a love story!" But it's also said, "Don't be too self-indulgent" ☺
I was a little, huh?
But anyway, I put my whole heart into this story!




AND YOUR WORRY ABOUT WHICH HIGH SCHOOL I GET INTO IS FOR MY SAKE, BUT THAT'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO LEAVE TO ME.
AND I KNOW THAT FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, THESE ARE THE RECKLESS ACTIONS OF A YOUNG CHILD.





HE'S A MANAGER AT THE SUPERMARKET WHERE I WORK. I THOUGHT I WOULD INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU AFTER YOUR EXAMS.

I WAS HOPING TO BRAG TO HIM ABOUT YOU TWO. I WANTED HIM TO THINK THAT I HAD RAISED SOME WONDERFUL KIDS.

AH!

I DID, TOO.

I'VE BEEN THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED AGAIN... THERE'S A MAN...

OH!

I'M PRETTY DUMB, AREN'T I? I CAN BRAG ABOUT YOU *NOW!* MIAKA, AFTER YOUR EXAMS ARE OVER...

...BE SURE TO BRING THAT YOUNG MAN OVER TO THE HOUSE, WILL YOU?

EH?

THIS SUNDAY... IT'D BE NICE IF KEISUKE CAME ALONG TOO. WE NEED A LITTLE R&R.

DISNEY-LAND ...

THIS ISN'T SOME IDLE INFATUATION-- THAT'S WHAT I'D MOST LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND. PLEASE TRUST ME... MOM!

I REALIZED THAT I LOVE HIM, AND I'VE LEARNED A LOT IN OTHER WAYS, TOO. WE'RE BOTH SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.

IT'S TRUE-- YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN. I FORGOT THAT.

I'VE BEEN TOO OBSESSED WITH GETTING YOU INTO A FIRST-CLASS SCHOOL.

AND YOU *WOULD* FALL IN LOVE. YOU'RE 15, AFTER ALL.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU AND I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD TALK IN YEARS.

AA AA AH!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN *RUN* FROM ME?

SOME-BODY, HELP!!

N-- NO! STAY BACK !!

OH, NO! THE HEAD-MASTER'S GONE INTO A WORLD OF HIS OWN!

ED-- ED-- EDU-- EDUCATIONAL COACHING!

WHSH WHSH WHSH

WHSH WHSH WHSH WHSH WHSH WHSH

MR. HEAD-MASTER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

BIG BROTHER EAVES-DROPPING.

I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULDN'T CRY!

MOM, I'M SORRY!

SURE.

... AND THANKS!

WHA--

WHA--

WHA--

TWTCH TWTCH

I HEARD THAT THIS WORLD WAS EXCELLENT FOR CONNECTING WITH THE HEAVENS, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED...

HEH!

!!

NO! THAT *WAS* NAKAGO'S CHI!

EVEN *HE* MADE IT INTO THIS WORLD!

"EVEN *MORE* DISASTROUS THINGS MIGHT OCCUR HERE."

I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

THAT'S NAKAGO'S CHI!!

I-- I KNOW THAT FEELING!

DON'T STARE! HE'LL NOTICE US!

AH! DID YOU SEE THOSE CLOTHES!

"YUI, PLEASE BELIEVE ME!"

"IF YOU HAVE A POWERFUL WILL, A STRONG HEART, YOU CAN BEAT THE BEAST-GOD!"

SOME-BODY! HELP ME !!

PLEASE, NO! I'M AFRAID! IT HURTS!

THE ONE WHO BETRAYED HER DEAR FRIEND WAS *ME!*

I WAS JUST TOO STUBBORN AND JEALOUS!

I DIDN'T BELIEVE HER!

!

IS THAT TAMAHOME OVER THERE?

MIAKA, I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYONE ELSE HARM YOU!

HA!

GASP ... SCALES !!

EVEN ON MY LEG!

UNH !!

!!

!!

YUI, HOLD ON!

NO! NO !!

YUI !!

YUI!

HUH ?

NAKAGO... SEIRYU'S POWER IS... AND MIAKA SAID...

TAMA- HOME ...

CALM DOWN! IT'S ME!

I WAS BORN IN A TRIBE THAT WAS LOWLY AND DESPISED!

AND COMING FROM SUCH A MEAN EXISTENCE, TO HAVE FATE AS MY VERY OWN PLAYTHING... WOULDN'T THAT BE INTERESTING?

YES... EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD... ITS EXISTENCE OR DESTRUCTION... SHALL BE MINE ALONE TO DECIDE. FOR *THIS* WORLD, AS WELL.

I SHALL BE A GOD... THE EMPEROR UNDER HEAVEN!

A THING THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY FERVENT WISH IS NOW WITHIN MY GRASP

AHI NO, YOU DON'T WANT CONTROL...

OH! YOU'RE JUST SOME CONTROL FREAK? THAT'S PATHETIC!

...YOU WANT REVENGE!

"EMPEROR"? WELL, IT'S TOO BAD FOR YOU THAT OUR LIVES AREN'T MEANT FOR THAT!

YOU BASTARD! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU HERE FOR!? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH YU!!?

YOU WILL HAND HER EMINENCE BACK, TAMAHOME.

I'VE COME TO MAKE SURE THAT HER EMINENCE FULFILLS HER PROMISE TO ME. THE FINAL USE OF SEIRYU'S POWER WAS TO BE FOR MY BENEFIT.

NAKAGO !!

HA!
SO YOU WILL DEFEAT ME? THIS SHOULD BE AMUSING.
SUZAKU AND ITS POWER ARE SEALED AWAY AND YOU, A NORMAL HUMAN, CAN DEFEAT ME?
DO YOU THINK I WOULD ALLOW YOU TO DO THAT!?
CHIK
CHIKL CHIKL CHIKL CHIKL
THIS IS THE WORLD THAT MIAKA AND YUI WILL LIVE IN!
...I'LL LAY WASTE TO THIS "WORLD OF THE GODS."
THEN WHEN I BECOME THE EMPEROR UNDER HEAVEN...
D--
BOTH YOU AND I ARE NOTHING MORE THAN *CHARACTERS IN A BOOK* !!
TO THOSE WHO LIVE IN THIS WORLD, WE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN MADE-UP PEOPLE!
NEITHER YOU NOR I SHOULD BE LIVING ANYWHERE BUT ON A SHEET OF PAPER!
DO YOU THINK A MADE-UP PERSON CAN RULE THE WORLD!? GIVE IT UP!
WHAT IF I *AM* A MADE-UP CHARACTER? WE EXIST HERE AND NOW. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
WHAT !?
PERHAPS, IF SOMEONE IN THIS WORLD CREATED ME, THEN THAT PERSON WOULD BE MY CREATOR... MY GOD.
AND ...
WHAT IS YOUR ARGU-MENT?

THIS IS BAD! REAL BAD! BUT WE GOTTA STAY CALM! BAD TIMES CALL FOR A CALMING CALM CALMNESS!!

BIG BROTHER, CALM DOWN!

Panic Panic

MIAKA!!

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S STILL AFTERNOON! WHY DOES IT LOOK LIKE NIGHT?

YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY!

NAKAGO'S HERE! HE FINALLY MADE IT TO OUR WORLD!

EH!?

HE WANTS TO DO BAD THINGS TO *OUR* WORLD, TOO! I *KNEW* WE SHOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING!

HE'S HERE TO COLLECT ON HIS WISH! HE'S CHASING AFTER YUI RIGHT NOW!

WHAT ARE *YOU* LOOKING AT!?

HYA!!

YA AH!

!?

MIAKA! DON'T GO! YOU COULD GET HURT!

TAMA-HOME !!

NO! TAMAHOME WILL DIE!!

Tamahome, in desperate hope to safeguard the world of the two young ladies, joined the battle with no thought to his own safety. His confidence was in no way

TAMAHOME'S IN SHINJUKU RIGHT NOW TRYING TO STAND UP TO HIM!

OH, NO! HE'S NOT DOING TOO WELL!

BAAAAM

BAAAAM

住友カード

SOME-BODY! CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!

THE GROUND'S SPLITTING APART!!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?

EE YA AA AH!

CLEAR THE ROAD!

LET US THROUGH !!

WHAT AN ANNOY-ING HIGH-PITCHED SCREECH

YA AA AA AH!

YOUR EMINENCE, I AM GOING TO FINISH OFF THAT RECKLESS BOY. PLEASE REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE.

AAAAH !!

DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, CHILD.

CHAPTER SEVENTY-FIVE
BYE-BYE

WE'LL NEVER MEET AGAIN. FORGIVE ME FOR THAT.

BUT I WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE A FUTURE...

MIAKA...

...I HOPED TO HAVE ONE LAST CHANCE... TO SAY, "I LOVE YOU."

...EVEN IF IT TAKES MY LIFE!

RGH ...

TAMA-HOME, NO!!

DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE !!

AH? HEY! YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!

TAMA-HOME! BE ALL RIGHT!

HUFF HUFF

THE GROUND'S BROKEN, AND THERE'S FIRE EVERY-WHERE!

HEY !!

!!

STAND BACK! YOU'RE IN DANGER!

LET THAT AMBU-LANCE THROUGH !!

HYA AAA!

HA!

PARTING COMPANY WITH YOU IS CAUSING ME TO HAVE EMOTIONS I DON'T USUALLY FEEL...

YOU GIVE ME CHILLS!

WHAT'S WRONG, TAMAHOME? CAN'T YOU STAND ON YOUR OWN? WHAT A SHAME.

YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD!

GA AA AH !!

WE HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO EACH OTHER, TAMAHOME I CAN BREAK THE NECK OF SOMEONE AS WEAK AS YOU WITH ONE HAND!

MI... AKA... !

DIE.

AAAAAH!

I'M... SO... SORRY !

TAMAHOME? TAMAHOME, WHERE ARE YOU !?

MI... AKA!

CUT THE CRAP !!

HA! YOU *CAN* STILL FIGHT. I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD!

THIS WAY, IT'S MORE FUN TO KILL YOU.

OE YA AA AA AH!

NAKAGO !

I'VE PLACED A WARD AROUND HER EMINENCE.

NO ONE BUT ME MAY TOUCH HER.

YUI !!

UNN ...

WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY?

NAKAGO ...

WHERE'S TAMA-HOME?

...TO TAMA-HOME !?

WHAT HAP-PENED...

YOU CAME!

MIAKA ?

AA AA AA AH!

YUI ...

EVEN THE ARMORED POLICE CAN'T GET IN THERE.

IT'S LIKE THE FIRE IS ACTING AS A BARRIER

WHY DO MIAKA AND YUI HAVE TO GET KILLED BY THAT BASTARD NAKAGO!?

I DON' WANNA READ THAT!!

I SAW SOME BREAKING NEWS ON TV, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS--

AAAH!!

WHERE'D THAT FACE COME FROM!?

WAAAHH!!

KEI-SUKE !!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT TAMAHOME CAN DIE! HEROES OF BOOKS CAN'T DIE!!

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE'LL USE HIS POWERS TO SEND US TO A DIFFERENT WORLD BEFORE WE CAN EVEN GET CLOSE!

BUT IF WE HOLD "THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS" OPEN TOWARD NAKAGO, WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET HIM BACK INTO THE BOOK!

I-I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. THEN...

EH!?

WAIT, KEISUKE! THINK THIS THROUGH! THEY'RE JUST NORMAL HUMANS RIGHT NOW!

THEY'RE BETTER THAN *NORMAL* HUMANS! AND WE'RE OUT OF TIME!!

WE'LL HAVE TO CALL TASUKI AND CHICHIRI TO PINCH-HIT FOR US!!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO TAMA-HOME !?

NAKAGO HAS ENTERED OUR WORLD! HE'S TRYING TO KILL EVERYONE, INCLUDING MIAKA! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN HELP!

YOU CAN HEAR ME, RIGHT? I'M MIAKA'S OLDER BROTHER, KEISUKE! YOU HAVE TO SAVE MY SIS-- I MEAN MIAKA!

!?

MIAKA'S BROTHER !?

CHICHIRI !

TASUKI !

GO GRAB MIAKA'S BACKPACK... THE BAG MIAKA CARRIED HER STUFF IN! HOLD IT, AND CONCENTRATE ON COMING INTO OUR WORLD! HURRY!

YOU'RE LYING! NO! YOU COULD NEVER BEAT TAMA-HOME!

COME ON! YOU *HAVE* TO HEAR ME!

TASUKI!! CHICHIRI !!

AND YET THERE WAS A SADNESS TO HIM. BUT THAT DEPARTED WHEN HE MET THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU AND YOU WARRIORS. I'D NEVER SEEN SUCH JOY IN HIM.

HE WAS SUCH A GENTLE MAN! DESPITE HIS YOUTH, HE THOUGHT ONLY OF HIS PEOPLE.

MY EMPEROR! PLEASE REST AT EASE! I WILL GIVE BIRTH AND RAISE A FINE YOUNG MAN WHO WILL CARRY ON YOUR LEGACY!

NOW SHE CAN GO MEET HER LOVER IN DEATH.

MY PROMISE TO YOU WAS NEVER TO KILL THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.

...STOP...

PERHAPS HOLDING OFF KILLING HER UNTIL NOW WAS MY DESIRE, AS WELL.

NAN

AA AA AA AH!

MIAKA !!

AA AA AA AH!

"NOW WE'VE BECOME HUSBAND AND WIFE."

TAMA-HOME... CAN PERFORM MIRACLES !

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! TAMA-HOME!

NO!! I WON'T LISTEN TO YOU ANYMORE! LET ME GO!

YOUR EMINENCE, YOU MUST KEEP YOUR PROMISES. IF YOU DON'T, THEN I MUST BREAK *MY* PROMISE AS WELL.

!?

...USE THAT LAST WISH TO MAKE ME A GOD. ASK HIM TO GIVE ME ETERNAL LIFE AND OMNIPOTENT POWER.

NOW, YOUR EMINENCE ...

YUI !

THE "WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN" CORNER!

First: Nuriko's past. He was in Hotohori's inner seraglio, right? Actually, his little sister, Kang-Lin, wasn't supposed to die as a child, she was supposed to die just after she had been picked up to enter the seraglio. That's what my original set-up said. She fell in love with the Emperor (Hotohori), but she died in the accident soon after. Nuriko wanted his sister's wish fulfilled, so he took on women's clothes and entered the seraglio to take her place (they look exactly alike). Perfect, huh?

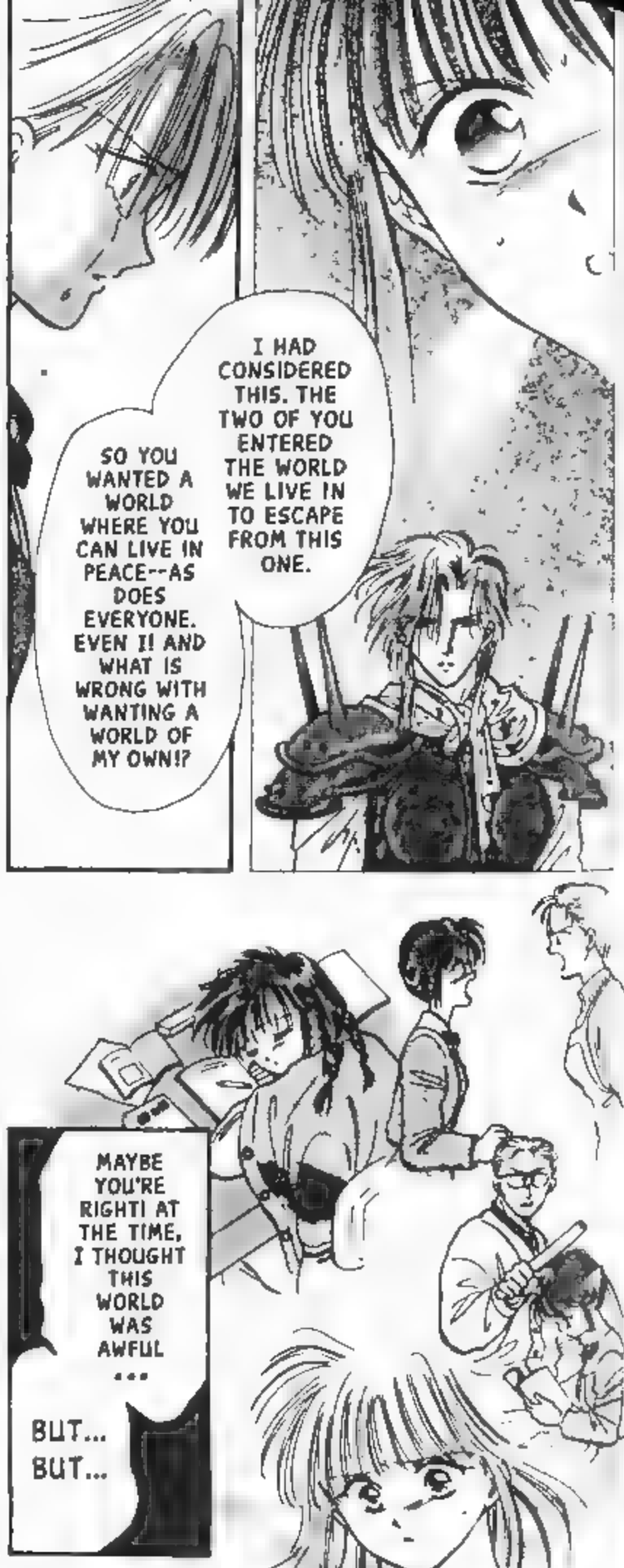
I thought so, but my editor said that it would be better if the character were an established long-time homosexual. And that seemed like such a reasonable suggestion that I just said, "I-I guess you're right," and went with the flow. That's Watase for you! And so, how he got himself into the Emperor's inner seraglio must remain a mystery. Oh, well! It was for naught anyway!

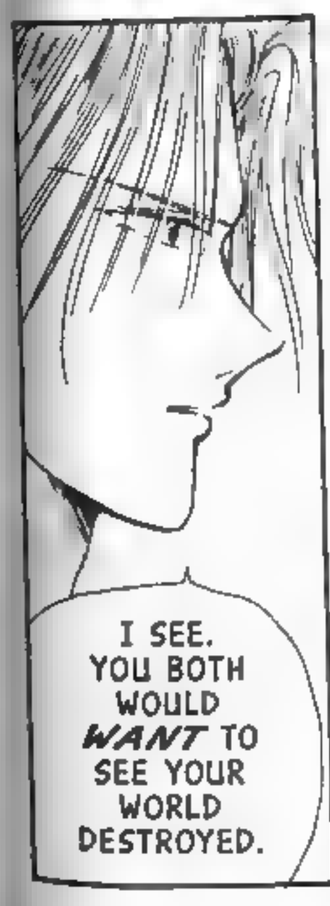
And Chiriko. The reason why he didn't join up with the Celestial Warriors sooner... He got his chance to explain in Volume 11. But... My original set-up was to have Nakago capture him first! I mean, Nakago wouldn't let such an opportunity slide! And so, after the Ambosh incident (that sounds strange...), the warriors would set out to rescue the rec. Chiriko. But my editor said, "You don't have to make everything so difficult!" And I said, "Yes, Sir!" ☺ I'm so obedient!

And in Volume 11, Suboru was there, right? It was my plan to use her powers to control time to make Chiriko 16.7 years old! I thought this would have been a great scene! But there was no room (in the page count or layout) to do it. (I had to resort to a bonus page only!)

Another plan was to have the Celestial Warriors stop off on their journeys at a hot spring, and another was to include Hotohori taking a bath (and nude scenes), but they didn't make it in. I had loads of comedy episodes! But if I can, I'll try to include them in Part 2. ☺ The nude scenes? No, I don't mean that!!

I wanted to make the both of them younger! ➡


SO YOU WANTED A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN LIVE IN PEACE--AS DOES EVERYONE. EVEN I! AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH WANTING A WORLD OF MY OWN!?
I HAD CONSIDERED THIS. THE TWO OF YOU ENTERED THE WORLD WE LIVE IN TO ESCAPE FROM THIS ONE.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT THIS WORLD WAS AWFUL ...
BUT... BUT...



IF YOU DO NOT DO AS I SAY, IT WON'T END WITH THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.
YOUR ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE BROUGHT TO DESTRUCTION.
NOW, YOUR EMINENCE... YOU MUST CALL ON THE FINAL USE OF SEIRYU'S POWER

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU NEVER BETRAYED ME. BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU NEARLY AS WELL AS I DO!

I DID LOVE TAMAHOME...BUT IF YOU HADN'T COME BETWEEN US, I DOUBT I WOULD HAVE CHASED HIM SO HARD.

YOU LEFT ME BEHIND TO BE WITH TAMAHOME.

I FINALLY REALIZED... I WAS SO FRUSTRATED.

I WANTED TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL WITH YOU, BUT...

IT MADE ME SO MAD! HERE I WAS, SEEMINGLY GETTING DIRTIER AND DIRTIER...

OH, ENOUGH! THIS IS WEARING ME OUT!

...BYE-BYE...

GIRL, WILL YOU NEVER SHUT UP?

THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE! RIGHT? YUI, RIGHT?

MIAKA, YOU'RE SUCH A DUMMY.

LOOK AT HOW YOU'VE TURNED OUT, AND YOU *STILL* PUT YOUR TRUST IN ME?

THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO'VE HELPED RAISE US!

WE HAVE FAMILY HERE, AND FRIENDS WE LOVE!

AND FROM HERE ON OUT, THERE WILL BE MORE PEOPLE WHO WILL BECOME IMPORTANT TO US!

YU!!!!!!!!!!!

H--
HEY!

KAIJIN.

YUI, *NO!!* SEIRYU WILL DEVOUR YOU!

GIVE YUI AND TAMAHOME BACK TO ME!!

GIVE THEM BACK!

WHAT CAN ONE LITTLE GIRL DO?

AH?

NAGO!!

SHALL I SEND YOU TO WHERE TAMAHOME AWAITS? OF COURSE, THAT WILL BE THE END OF YOU.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I'VE SEEN SEIRYU.

AND IT IS THE END.

T-TASUKI... CHI-CHIR! ...

KEISUKE!! UP THERE!! KYAA AAAA!

IT *IS* A DRA-GON !!

DOESN'T THAT LOOK LIKE A *DRA-GON!?*

AND WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS WORLD? SHALL I HAVE YUI ASK YOU TO DESTROY IT FOR ME?

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT IT'S ALL OVER!

HEH! YOU ARE SUCH FOOLS!

GOT IT! NO DA!

I'M GONNA TAKE THIS GUY ON! CHICHIRI, TAKE CARE OF MIAKA!

YES!

MIAKA.

MIAKA! MIAKA, IT'S ME! COME ON, WAKE UP! NO DA!

WE SUZAKU CELESTIAL WARRIORS JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN T'QUIT!

WHA AAA AAA AAT !?

T- TASUKI AND CHICHIRI FINALLY SHOWED UP!!

CHICHIRI! HOW COME YA ALWAYS GO TINY WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT FOR *YOU* !?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?? NO DA?

THIS THING'S HEAVY ENOUGH! GET OFF!

IT'S YOU!

THUMP

GRRR

...OF JUSTICE... FR TH AND GOOD WILL...

...ALL THE GREAT FORCES...

I SUMMON ...

MIAKA ...

!?

WHAT... !? IT'S...

WHAT'S WRONG, TASUKI? IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT!?

...OF THE FOUR CORNERS OF HEAVEN AND THE FOUR QUARTERS OF EARTH... TO CALL ON YOU, PROTECTOR OF THE SOUTH, DIVINE SUZAKU!

IT'S THE INCANTATION TO SUMMON SUZAKU!

YU!!

YA AA AA AH

I SUMMON ALL THE GREAT FORCES..

OF JUST CE... FAITH AND GOOD WILL...

...THE SUMMONING CHANT OF SUZAKU !

TH-- THIS IS...

..OF THE FOUR CORNERS OF HEAVEN AND THE FOUR QUARTERS OF EARTH

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SIX

MIRACLE WINGS

DESCEND UPON US FROM THE HEAVENS !!

HER FINAL WISH WAS TO GRANT THIS GIRL THE POWER TO SUMMON SUZAKU!

I UNDER-STAND... IT'S THAT GIRL!

WE SUMMON YOU THUS !

LISTEN TO THE PLEA OF YOUR PEOPLE ...

...AND DESTROY ALL EVIL WITH YOUR DIVINE POWERS FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP YOU!

ゴオオオオ

SHE CAN'T ...

...TO CALL ON YOU, PROTECTOR OF THE SOUTH, DIVINE SUZAKU!

WE ASK THAT YOU DESCEND FROM THE SEVEN CONSTELLATIONS TO PROTECT US...

KATAK

SHHHH

REKKA ...

... SHIN'EN !!

MIAKA !

AH!

SUZAKU!!

WOOOW!

A BIRD .. JUST APPEARED ABOVE THE DRAGON!

S-- S--

K-- KEISUKE !

IT'S .. SUZAKU !

SUZAKU ...

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE. BUT NOW THAT THE PRIESTESS SUMMONED SUZAKU, YOU CAN'T WIN!
HO DAI

YA GOT IT, CREEP!

OF COURSE. IF SUZAKU IS UNSEALED, THE SUZAKU WARRIOR'S POWERS COME BACK AS WELL.

WHAT !?

THE MOMENT THE THIRD WISH IS GRANTED, THE BEAST-GOD DEVOURS HER

I'M NOT SO SURE. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PRIESTESS WHEN THE BEAST-GOD INTERTWINES WITH HER?

MIAKA !?

GASP

LOCK ...

SHE KNEW SHE'D BE DEVOURED. AND YET SHE STILL INTERTWINED WITH THE GOD

!

MIAKA !!

TO GRANT YOUR WISHES. WE MUST INTERTWINE AND THREE TIMES ONLY WILL YOU BE ABLE TO USE DIVINE POWERS

.....

SUZAKU !!

ARE YOU THE PRIESTESS ?

I AM GOD OF THE SUZAKU STARS.

"MIAKA, PROTECT OUR WORLD..."

"PROTECT EVERY-ONE!"

YUI SHE USED HER LAST WISH AND ALLOWED HERSELF TO BE EATEN BY SEIRYU FOR THIS PURPOSE! FOR *ME!!*

I WANT YUI RETURNED ...
I WANT MY BEST FRIEND RETURNED RIGHT NOW !!
...!!
...
...
...

"WHAT I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO DRAW" CORNER

Fushigi Yûgi is a story that should be able to be enjoyed even by Japanese grade school students, and for that reason, it was to be a world as seen through the eyes of a third-year middle-school student Miaka!

What I really wanted to draw was the world as seen through other points of view, as well, from the point of view of other people in the country, from a political point of view, and the point of view of those in power. Also, there was Nakago as a general. Yeah, he's cold, but he really knew what to do for his soldiers. They felt that he did right by them, and as a result, he was very popular (and a good fighter too), and they'd follow him anywhere. I also wanted to get into the past of the other generals. There was a character who was isolated by malicious slander. But if you try to put in too much, you lose focus on the story. And from the perspective of a third-year student in middle school, politics are boring. So we made enormous cuts in the story there. *I was somewhat happy about it. It saved me a lot of work.* (^^;)

What else? In this story, the things that were the most fun (to draw) were the action (fight) scenes! Since this is a shôjo manga, I held back quite a bit, but I really love them! ♫♪

When I got to Chapters 74-77 *(this book)* I nearly broke out and said, "finally." *It was so fun...I was spellbound!* I did this for Nakago vs. Tamahome too, but for the Tasuki vs. Tamahome fight in Volume 5, I sketched entire fight scenes from rented Chinese Kung-Fu movies on video. Camera angles, movement right and left... (If I don't do research and work at it, I'll never learn!) Also, I kept the thought in my head how they would move if it were animated. The movements went round and round... *(I know, but I love it!)*

And so I compiled an "Action Note" sketchbook with more than a hundred entries and sketches of movements. *But it was hard and wore me out! Even now,* when I find the time, I still add to it. If I want to get better, I have to work!!

MIAKA !
SLUMP
DON'T FADE OUT ON US NOW!
YUI... THANK GOD!
TH-THIS HURTS!
UNN NHH ...
SHE SHOULD KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE INTERTWINES WITH A GOD!
WHAT A FOOLISH GIRL!

DAD!

THEY'RE ALL MAKING FUN OF THE CHARACTER ON MY FOREHEAD!

I DON'T WANT IT ANYMORE! WHY DO I HAVE TO HAVE IT!?

TAMAHOME, SOMEDAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. IT MARKS THE STAR OF DESTINY THAT YOU WERE BORN UNDER.

ONE DAY, A YOUNG WOMAN WILL COME TO THIS COUNTRY, AND YOU MUST PROTECT HER.

DAD...?

WHERE AM I? IT'S ALL BLACK! I CAN'T SEE! DAD!

WHAT'S WRONG, TAMAHOME?

TAMAHOME!!

PLEASE, GIVE ME STRENGTH...

TAMAHOME!!

MIAKA! THE WOUNDS ON YOUR BACK...

TASUKI... CHICHIRI...

TRMBL TRMBL TRMBL

WITH HER BODY WEAK FROM ALL THOSE WOUNDS, SHE'LL NEVER BE STRONG ENOUGH FOR TWO MORE WISHES.

NO! I CAN'T FAIL NOW!

I KNOW... MY BODY IS CHANGING INSIDE...

HOTOHORI...

CHIRIKO...

MITSUKAKE...

NURIKO...

BEFORE THAT YOUNG GIRL IS COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY SUZAKU, I SHALL SEND ALL THREE OF YOU AT ONCE TO MEET YOUR DEAD FRIENDS.

DAMMIT! WHAT'LL WE DO ?

!?

0101

TAMA-HOME!

YOU WERE BORN TO MEET THAT YOUNG WOMAN.

GO THERE, NOW!

TAMAHOME!!

SSt

TAMA-HOME!

SOME-BODY'S... CALLING ME...

YOU HAVE TO GO, NOW... TO WHERE THAT YOUNG WOMAN IS.

DAD ?

CAN'T YOU GUYS DO *ANYTHING* ON YOUR OWN?

YOU MAKE ME WORRY, AND I SUDDENLY APPEAR HERE.

NURIKO !!

FIRST, WE MUST DEFEAT HIM!

EXPLA-NATIONS COME LATER.

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A MAN CRY.

IT'S YOU... THE LAST SLIVERS OF YOUR SOULS? GHOSTS? OH, I GET IT. "THE MIRACLE OF FRIENDSHIP," IS IT?

PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU, NOW IS A FINE TIME TO MAKE YOUR SECOND WISH, AND ALLOW SUZAKU TO FEED.

BUT WHATEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE STILL DEAD. I HAVE NO NEED TO KILL YOU AGAIN.

MIAKA !?

IT'S ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, MITSU-KAKE.

MO?

IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T HEAL THE WOUNDS ON MIAKA'S BACK!

HOTO-HORI !!

MYA AA!!

BYOING

WE MEET AGAIN, MIAKA.

HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD CAT, TAMA?

WHEE?

MYA? WHA ??

MITSU-KAKE, AND CHIRIKO !?

YER HERE! HOW DID--

A-AM I DREAM-ING?

TO TRUST IN PEOPLE! TO BE KIND TO PEOPLE! TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU!

NOT JUST THAT... EVERYONE HELPED TO TEACH ME!

SUPPOSE I GET A MATH EQUATION WRONG... SUPPOSE I FORGET SOME OF MY ENGLISH VOCABULARY WORDS... THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN THAT!!

AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME! YOU'LL *NEVER* WIN!!

I... I... I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS A TINY HUMAN BEING.

I ONLY DID WHAT OTHERS EXPECTED OF ME... MY MOTHER, SCHOOL, MY EXAMS...

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING! I HAD NO CHOICE! I WAS ABOUT AS DULL AS A GIRL CAN GET!

BUT WHEN I WENT INTO THE BOOK, I BECAME THE "PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU"!

I MET ALL THESE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT LIKE I COULD ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING!

YES, I'M STILL A CHILD! BUT I FELT THAT I COULD DO THINGS! THAT IF I TRIED, I COULD DO IT!

YOU CRETIN! AREN'T YOU DEAD YET?

IS THAT SO?

EVERYONE. WE MUST GIVE TAMAHOME STRENGTH! WE MUST FOCUS OUR CHI ON HIM!

TAMA-HOME!!

HEH! I HAD A TON OF WORK LEFT TO DO HERE. SO I STOPPED HALFWAY THERE AND CAME BACK!

KU

TAMA-HOME!

HYAAAAA!

.....!!

HAAH!

HAAH!

YOU GUYS, PROTECT MIAKA!

THIS BASTARD IS *MINE!!*

NO! I WON'T FAIL!

I WON'T LET THEM BEAT ME!!

...COULD GET ME COMPLETELY DEVOURED BY SUZAKU...!

THE NEXT WISH THAT I HAVE GRANTED...

GIVE IT TO ME!

SEAL SEIRYU AWAY!!

KAIJIN!!

HA AA AA!

THANKS, GUYS ...

YOU CAN'T AFFECT ME.

TAI YI-JUN GAVE ME THIS SCROLL! IT CONTAINS DIVINE POWER! IF WE COULD FIND A WAY TO SEAL SEIRYU WITHIN IT...

IF SEIRYU WERE SEALED AWAY, THEN NAKAGO'S POWERS AS A CELESTIAL WARRIOR WOULD VANISH!

WHAT'LL WE DO? CHIRIKO, HOW CAN WE WIN!?

OH, NO! NAKAGO'S TOO STRONG!

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SEVEN A NEW STORY

THE SECOND WISH TO SUZAKU ...

SEAL SEIRYU AWAY !!

PLEASE ALLOW THIS TO RETURN OUR WORLD TO NORMAL...

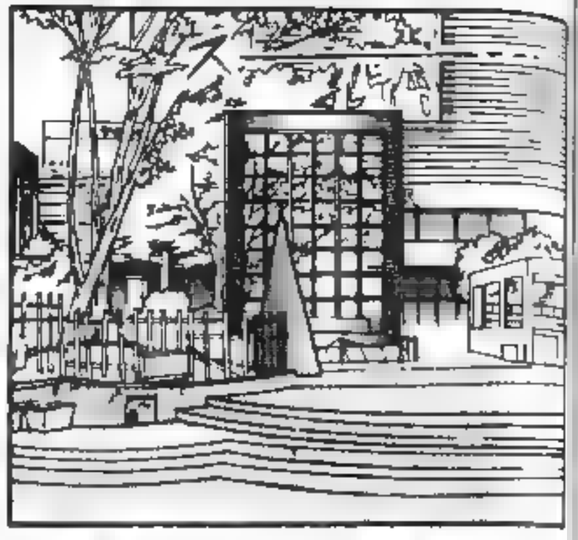
...AND ALLOW TAMAHOME TO BEAT NAKAGO!

WHAT !?

UNN
NHH...

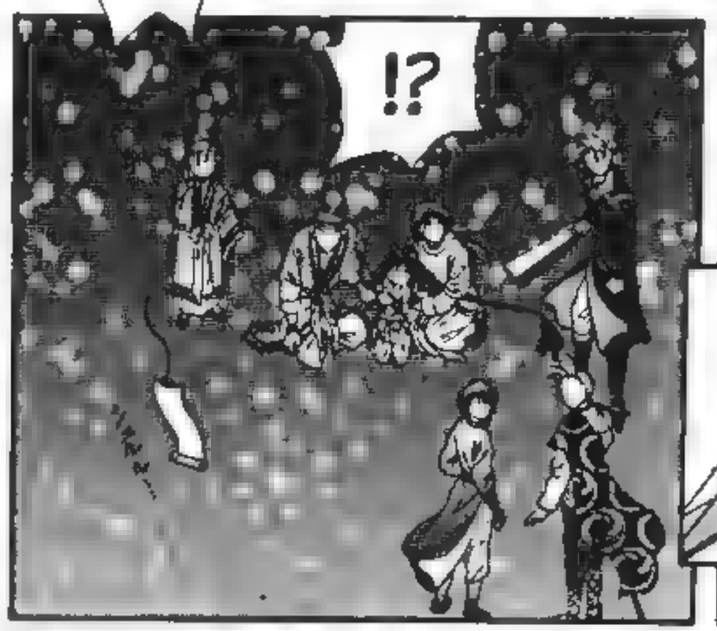
YAAAAHH!!

WHY AM I BEING CARRIED AWAY?
WHAT... HAP- PENED ?



THE UNI- VERSE OF THE FOUR GODS...

KEISUKE, WHAT... ?
THE WORLD... IS RETURN- ING TO NORMAL. MIAKA ...


!?

...

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE! IT'S THE QU-DONG ARMY!!

"WHY DO THOSE PEOPLE HATE US? WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHNG TO THEM!"

I'M FINE! IT DOESN'T HURT ANY-MORE!

I BEAT THE BEAST-GOD!

SEIRYU IS SEALED INSIDE THE SCROLL!

ARE WE BEING TRANS-PORTED BETWEEN WORLDS?

MIAKA, ARE YOU UN-HARMED?

.....

"LOOK, THEY'RE FROM THE PIN TRIBE! STAY AWAY FROM THEM!"

I RE-CALLED...

A TIME LONG AGO.

"OH? THIS YOUNG WHELP IS A CELESTIAL WARRIOR OF SEIRYU?"

"HE HAS SUCH A PRETTY FACE. AS PRETTY AS ANY WOMAN."

THAT WAS... THE FIRST TIME... MY POWERS AS A CELESTIAL WARRIOR... MANI-FESTED.

BUT AS A RESULT OF THAT.. MY MOTHER... MY MOTHER WAS AMONG... THE FIRST PEOPLE I KILLED.

MOTHER!!

"UHH... MOTHER?"

NAKAGO ...

WHY DIDN'T YOU DODGE MY BLOW?

NAKAGO ...

NAKAGO ...

S-- SO!?

REVENGE ON THE HEAVENS... THAT PUT ME THROUGH HELL!

MO... THER...

HEH... YOU CAN... GUESS... WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

I WAS... LOWER THAN ANY DOG! THERE WAS NO LOWER... THAT I COULD SINK.

"COME HERE."

"I LIKE HIM! COME HERE BESIDE ME, LAD."

I WANTED TO... BE A SOLDIER. SO UNTIL THE PRIESTESS OF SEIRYU APPEARED... I REMAINED... LOYAL.. TO THE EMPEROR. I PLAYED THE SERVANT.. AND TRUSTED MY POWER...

I WAS POWERLESS .. THE ONLY .. THING I COULD DO WAS... TRAIN MYSELF TO USE THE SEIRYU CELESTIAL WARRIOR'S POWERS!

ALL I WANTED... WAS REVENGE!

IN TRUTH... I COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS ABOUT BEING. EMPEROR OF THE HEAVENS...

...AND WAITED FOR THE DAY WHEN I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD!!

TAMA-HOME !!

MIAKA ...

TAMA-HOME!

REALLY ?

MITSUKAKE! BOY, WAS I SURPRISED WHEN THEY TOLD ME THAT *YOU* DIED!

NURIKO, THAT ISN'T EVEN *CLOSE* TO FUNNY.

IT'S TOO BAD, TAMAHOME! YOU WERE SO CLOSE TO JOINING THE AFTERLIFE WITH US!

WELL... NAKAGO WAS ALREADY WOUNDED BY YOUR MAJESTY'S ATTACK, AND ALL OF YOU GAVE ME YOUR STRENGTH...

WELL DONE, TAMAHOME.

WHY, TASUKI! ARE YOU ALL TEARY-EYED?

I AIN'T CRYIN' !

SNFF SNFF

DO YA ALL GOTTA DO THAT ?

IT'S OVER ...

... MIAKA.

HONG-NAN MUST DO SO, AS WELL. BUT SINCE THEY ARE A UNITED PEOPLE. THEY WILL BE QUICK TO REBUILD BEI-JIA AND XI-LANG ARE BOTH DOING WELL

QU-DONG WAS THE SOURCE OF EVIL IN THE WORLD. BUT NOW THEIR LEADERS HAVE ALL DIED OR BEEN RENDERED POWERLESS THIS MEANS THEY HAVE TO START A NEW COUNTRY FROM SCRATCH.

YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR DUTY AS PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.

BY SUMMONING SUZAKU, YOU HAVE PROTECTED THE WORLD.

EH!? SO SOON!?

NOW, PEOPLE, IT IS TIME TO GO.

THANK GOOD-NESS!

T-- TAI YI-JUN!!

AND A LAI LAI ARMY!

BUT HOW? HOW DID YOU ALL...

I GRANTED THEM THE POWER.

STOP THAT!! LET ME DO THE TALK-ING!!

NOTHING EVER CHANGES

AND DEAD WARRIORS SENT SUCH STRONG ANSWER THAT THEY CAME!

MIAKA, I HEAR YOU WHEN YOU SENT STRONG CALL FOR YOUR CELESTIAL WARRIORS!

I'D LIKE TO SAY--

BACK IN CONTROL OF HERSELF AGAIN

YOU DID WELL, MIAKA.

YOUR SUMMONING OF SUZAKU HAD ITS EFFECT. WITNESS...

THEY'RE RIGHT.

TAMA-HOME!

YOU REALLY DON'T NEED US ANY-MORE.

TAMA, CHICHIRI SHOULD TREAT YOU WELL FROM NOW ON.

YEAH, AND KNEI-GONG IS WAITIN' FOR ME! WE GOTTA START REBUILDIN' HONG-NAN!

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. WE MUST RETURN.

WE DO NOT POSSESS CORPOREAL BODIES ANYMORE.

NN DAA AA!

HERE I GO!

I WANT TO USE MY SUPER STRENGTH, BUT I CAN'T TOUCH ANYTHING!

TAG! TASUKI, YOU'RE IN THE RING.

NO DA!

WHSSH

WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING !?

YOU GUYS ...

YEAH! YOU'RE GONNA WIN ANY FIGHT YOU TAKE ON! AND THIS BANDIT LEADER AIN'T NEVER SAID THAT ABOUT ANY OTHER GIRL!

YA GOT MY GUARANTEE!

EXACTLY. YOU'VE MANAGED TO GROW STRONGER EVEN WITHOUT OUR OVER-SIGHT.

YOU HAVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU!

WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR, MIAKA?

THEY'RE RIGHT! MIAKA'S LAST WISH IS STILL YET TO BE GRANTED !

YUP. YUP.

OHH. THAT FELT GOOD!

NURIKO IS CORRECT! TAMAHOME, YOU MUST NEVER LEAVE MIAKA'S SIDE!!

EH? EH?

NO DA!

WHY DO *YOU* HAVE TO COME BACK!?

WE ALL HAVE THE STARS, AND EVEN THOUGH WE MAY NOT SEE THEM IN THE DAYTIME, THEY'RE STILL THERE WATCHING OVER US.

JUST REMEMBER US. AND WE'LL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE..

AS LONG AS THE STARS SHINE ON YOUR WORLD AND OURS.
NO DA.

WE'LL SEE YOU WHEN YOU ARE SAD OR HAPPY. AND WHEN YOUR LIFE COMES TO AN END, AND YOU'RE LATER REBORN, WE'LL BE WATCHING FROM THE HEAVENS.
NO DA.

...
THANKS...

SO, HAVE A HAPPY LIFE.

YUP YUP.

IT'S TRUE! THE POSSIBILITY REMAINS! YOU COULD WISH THAT TAMAHOME WERE REBORN AS A PERSON OF *YOUR* WORLD.

YER SUCH AN IDIOT! YA GOTTA *TRY* THESE THINGS BEFORE GIVIN' UP!!
LIVE LIFE ALL-OUT!

BONK

B-BUT... WHEN THEY TRIED IT WITH BYAKKO, THEY SAID THAT PEOPLE FROM OTHER WORLDS COULDN'T BE TOGETHER!

!

BUT... WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN !?

WE'RE FRIENDS! YOU CAN'T GET RID OF US *THAT* EASILY.
NO DA.

LISTEN, TAMA!! YOU MAKE MIAKA CRY, AND YER IN TROUBLE!!

AND DON'T WORRY. YOU ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN CREATE MIRACLES!
NO DA.

YES, SIR!

YES. PRAY THAT THE WISH FOR YOU BOTH COMES TRUE.

PRAY FOR IT! AND WE WILL, TOO!

MIAKA, TAMA-HOME ...

THANK YOU, EVERYONE !!

TAI YI-JUN ...

NEVE FOR ...

THANK... YOU...

THANK YOU !

...YOU'LL BECOME A MAN OF MY WORLD. YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE LIFE OF THE BOOK.

IS IT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU? IF THIS WISH IS GRANTED...

I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE...

...EXCEPT FOR YOU.

..... KAIJIN !!

...THE HUMAN HEART IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN.

THE ONE WHO GRANTS YOUR WISHES IS NOT GOD...

TAMA-HOME ...

THE EMPEROR OF THE HEAVENS ...

PLEASE!

PLEASE, SUZAKU!

NOW AND FOREVER!

GRANT MY WISH!

CREATE ONE LAST MIRACLE!

GRANT THAT THE TWO OF US WILL NEVER BE PARTED!

MIAKA !!

MORE WONDERFUL THAN ANY I'VE EVER READ!

IT'S A *WONDERFUL* BOOK!

YES. YOU'RE RIGHT.

.....

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?

MAN, WAS THAT A SURPRISE! EVERYONE RETURNED TO NORMAL LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED!

THIS BOOK DOESN'T HAVE ANY CURSE! IT ISN'T DANGER-OUS!

... KEI-SUKE.

KA-KLUNK

SLUMP

FLUNK

KSHH..

Now, I've received a lot of letters regarding Fushigi Yûgi! But I never expected the wonderful variety--like nothing I've ever seen! There are times when I've looked at them and thought to myself, "This is unfair!"☺ But different people have different ways of interpreting things. I've had letters from everyone from grade-school-age kids to 38-year-old married women. Men, too! Really, a huge range of people! I expected the ones that say, "My brother reads it, too," but there were such a huge number of letters saying, "My mother is a fan, too," that I have to imagine it's a new age of manga.

There were also a surprising number of letters from people who went to their libraries to find "The Universe of the Four Gods." Even my editor said that there are so many people looking, "If there is a book like it, please let me know!" They even got requests from the libraries themselves. I was shocked! I made up "The Universe of the Four Gods." It doesn't exist! Neither does Mr. Okuda's "Fushigi Yûgi" takes place inside "The Universe of the Four Gods," and "The Universe of the Four Gods" can only be found inside "Fushigi Yûgi"! But the fact that I come this far is only because of you readers. Thank you so much!! My health has failed during its run, and there were times when I had to draw it all by myself (Volume 9 was pretty much all me.) But I thought of you readers and did my best. There were times when nothing good ever seemed to happen, but at that time, my first thought would be, "I won't let them get me down!" Now that Part 1 is over, all I see in my own work are defects, but still, I know that I tried my very best at the time, and I'm satisfied with that. Part 2 will be a continuation of the story, but there will be a whole new setting, and there will be new characters (and, of course, new villains)! And it's just possible that novels will come out covering the Priestesses of Genbu and Byakko. When!? And so, please continue to support Fushigi Yûgi!

And with that, 5/9

DON'T FEEL PRESSURED. I GAVE UP ON...
NO, MOM. I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE SCORES. I JUST WANT TO DO THE BEST THAT I CAN.
BUT WHEN I TALKED TO YOUR TEACHERS, THEY SAID YOU WERE STILL TAKING THE JONAN EXAM.
MIAKA, YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GO TO YOTSUBADAI HIGH SCHOOL, DIDN'T YOU?
THEY'RE RIGHT. I AM.
BESIDES, I HAVE A GOOD-LUCK CHARM!

我愛你 WO AI NI

Xong Gui-Siu

JUNIOR HIGH GRADUATION

And when that happens, I will tell you again...

Whatever worlds may separate us, I will cross them And no matter what, I will f nd you.

Even if you look completely different... Even if thousands or hundreds of thousands of years pass ..

...I still believe that someday we'll meet again.

No... I will *find you* again! I promise!

...THE LETTER THAT TAMAHOME LEFT FOR ME.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF EVERYONE, AND...

But even if that is true *now*...

Dearest Miaka...

YOTSUBA HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

When you read this, we will have already parted ways.

I PASSED MY TESTS TO ENTER HIGH SCHOOL.

TAMAHOME, I BELIEVE, TOO... THAT THE DAY WE MEET AGAIN WILL SOMEDAY COME.

MIAKA!!

YOU DID THE BEST THAT YOU COULD! IT WAS ENOUGH JUST TO *TAKE* THE TEST!

BUT I WAS MORE SURPRISED BY YUI THAN I WAS BY YOU, MIAKA!

AND I WAS IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD, TOO!

WHY ARE YOU SO OUT OF IT? STILL STUNG BECAUSE YOU FAILED JONAN? WELL, LET'S GO GET ICE CREAM AND CHEER YOU UP!! I'M BUYING!

NOOGIE NOOGIE

TAMAHOME ...

AND EVERY-ONE...

ARE YOU WATCHING ?

AH!
I JUST REMEMBERED! YUI, DID YOU REALLY GET ASKED OUT BY TETSUYA!?
KEISUKE TOLD ME!
YEAH. HE ASKED THEM TO STORE IT AWAY SO THAT NOBODY WILL EVER TOUCH IT AGAIN. I THINK THAT'S FOR THE BEST, TOO.
BY THE WAY, DID KEISUKE TAKE "THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS" BACK TO THE LIBRARY?
IT'S NAKAGO'S.
I CAN'T DENY IT...
HE AND I... ARE VERY MUCH ALIKE IT'S LIKE HE LIVES ON INSIDE ME.
ODDLY, IT DIDN'T DISAPPEAR WHEN THE REST DID. YOU SEE, I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO HATE HIM.
AND I WANT HIM TO STAY... SO THAT I NEVER FORGET THE MISTAKES I MADE.
YUI, THAT'S...!?
OH! YEAH...
HEY, WAIT!! YOU PROMISED TO BUY ME ICE CREAM!!
YAAA AAAH! SASAKI!! KANEKO!! YAAA AAAH!
LISTEN... HEY!
MY FAULT. I'LL BUY.
HMPH! EVEN A MONKEY FALLS OUT OF HIS TREE SOMETIMES!
SHE WAS VALEDICTORIAN, BUT SHE FAILED THE JONAN EXAM!
BY THE WAY, THE TWO UPPERCLASSMEN YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT WERE JUST IN THE CO-OP.
YUI, WE'RE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES!
EH!?
YEAH... BUT THE CLASSROOMS ARE RIGHT NEXT DOOR. AND WE SHARE GYM PERIODS.
WE'LL BOTH HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO HANG AROUND WITH NEW FRIENDS.
WE'RE NOT IN KINDERGARTEN ANYMORE.

YES. YOU'RE RIGHT

HE... HE LIVES INSIDE OF ME, TOO.

SO DOES EVERY-ONE ELSE

...AND THAT ITS STORY WILL CONTINUE ON FOREVER, INSIDE OF OUR HEARTS!

I WILL NEVER OPEN THE PATHS OF "THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS" AGAIN, BUT I STILL BELIEVE

I BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD DOES EXIST SOMEWHERE

BY THE WAY, THERE'S A NEW STUDENT AT MY COLLEGE WHO ENTERED THIS SPRING. HE'S STRANGE... BUT INTERESTING.

"WITH THE FIRE..." THAT TIME, I FELT THAT OUR BODIES AND HEARTS BECAME ONE.

HE SAYS THAT HE'S HAD THE MEMORY OF A DIFFERENT WORLD EVER SINCE CHILDHOOD.

I'D GO SO FAR AS TO CALL HIS STORY MYSTERIOUS. IN THAT OTHER WORLD...

...HE WAS FATED ON A STAR TO PROTECT A CERTAIN GIRL.

HE WAS ONE OF SEVEN WITH THE SAME FATE.

AND EVEN BEFORE HE WAS BORN, HE MADE A PROMISE TO THAT GIRL. HE SAID, "EVEN IF SHE LOOKS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT .. EVEN IF THOUSANDS OR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS PASS..."

SO, KEISUKE, WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO MEET US? *YOU NEVER DO THAT!*

HEH, HEH. BECAUSE TETSUYA IS WAITING FOR ME A LITTLE FARTHER DOWN THE ROAD.

DON'T GO SNEAK-ING UP BEHIND US WITH YOUR NARRA-TION!

EVEN IN THE HEART OF A GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN WHO--

YES, IT DID CONTINUE INSIDE THE HEARTS OF THE TWO YOUNG WOMEN. NO DA.

THERE ARE MYSTERIES AND MIRACLES THAT HAPPEN HERE, TOO.

BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING... THIS WORLD IS A PRETTY COOL PLACE.

WHILE ITS BODY BURNS, IT BECOMES ONE WITH THE FIRE TO BE REBORN TIME AND TIME AGAIN. IT'S THE SYMBOL OF LOVE AND FATE THAT LASTS TO A TIME APPROACHING INFINITY.

SUZAKU IS BASED ON THE "BIRD OF FIRE." THE BIRD THAT IS BOTH MALE AND FEMALE, AND IMMORTAL... THE PHOENIX.

MIAKA, DID YOU KNOW?

MANY MEETINGS. MANY LOVES. COURAGE AND MIRACLES. THE BOOK THAT GAVE ME ALL OF THAT...

我愛你 WO AI NI

...IS SOMETHING I WILL NEVER FORGET.

AND STARTING NOW, A NEW STORY BEGINS!

FUSHIGI YUGI, PART 1: THE END. TO BE CONTINUED IN *PART 2,* WHICH BEGINS IN *VOLUME 14: PROPHET!*

...HE WILL FIND HER.

NO MATTER WHAT...

MIAKA...

...WE'RE FINALLY TOGETHER.

The Fushigi Yûgi Guide to Sound Effects

Most of the sound effects in FUSHIGI YÛGI are the way Yû Watase created them, in their original Japanese.

We created this glossary for a page-by page, panel-by-panel explanation of the action and background noises. By using this guide, you may even learn some Japanese

The glossary lists page and panel number. For example, page 1, panel 3, would be listed as 1.3.

11.2 FX. GYURURURURURU. [zoom]
11.3 FX. BYU [throw.
11.4 FX: FU [dodge]
11 5 FX. DAN [leap]

12.1 FX. BA [pierce]

13.4 FX. PITA [stop]
13 5 FX: GAKUN [fall]
13 5 FX. DOSA [land]

14 1 FX: KORON [roll]
14.5 FX. DOSA [slump]

15 1 FX: S.GU [vanish ng]
15,3 FX. ZAWA ZAWA [crowd no se]
15.3 FX: HA alarm]
15 5 FX. PITA [stop.

16.2 FX. GOSHI [rub]
16.5 FX. WAAAA [shout ng.

17 1 FX. H.HI IN [neigh ng.
17 3 FX. HYUJU .w nd]

20 5 FX. KA [flash]

21.3 FX. DOHHH [burst]
21.4 FX. GU GJ [strugg ng]

24.2 FX. PISHA [shutt.ng]
24 4 FX: GAKU GAKU GAKU [trembl ng]

27 2 FX: KASA. [grasp.

CHAPTER SEVENTY-THREE: THE CEREMONY

34.1 FX: CHI CHI [birds ch rping]
34.2 FX: DAN [s.am.
34 3 FX. BA [dash]
34 4 FX. KACHA [cl ck]

CHAPTER SEVENTY-TWO: REQUIEM TO THE SKY

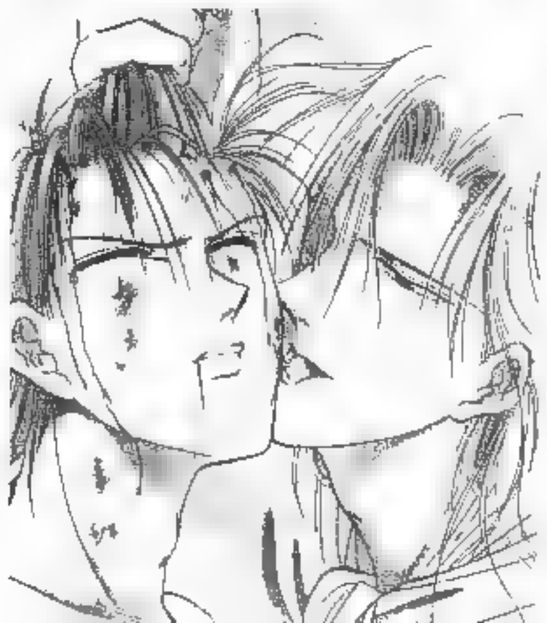
6.2 FX. ZAWA ZAWA .crowd murmur ng]
6.4 FX. DOKA [blow]

7 1 FX. BYU [zoom]
7.2 FX. BISH! BISH! BISH! [h ts]
7 3 FX. ZA [.ump]
7 4 FX. GA [kick]

8.1 FX: ZUZAZAZA [slid ng]
8.2 FX. DA dash]
8.3 FX. GASHI [grab]
8.5 FX. DOKAKAKA [blows]

9 1 FX. GYURUR.RURURURU .spinning]
9 2 FX. GYUN [launch]
9 3 FX: GYJRURUR.R.RU [sp nn ng]
9.4 FX: GASHAAAN [crash
9 5 FX. KU [float]

10 1 FX. GYUN [zoom]
10 1 FX. DA [dash.
10 4 FX: SHUR.RJRURURURU [twirl ng]



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yû Watase was born on March 5 in a town near Osaka, Japan, and she was raised there before moving to Tokyo to follow her dream of creating manga. In the decade since her debut short story, *Pajama De Ojama* ("An Intrusion in Pajamas"), she has produced more than 50 compiled volumes of short stories and continuing series. Her latest series, *Zettai Kareshi* ("Absolute Boyfriend"), is currently running in the anthology magazine *Shôjo Comic*. Watase's long-running horror/romance story *Ceres: Celestial Legend* and her most recent completed series, *Alice 19th*, are now available in North America published by VIZ. She loves science fiction, fantasy and comedy.

104.2 FX: UUUU [siren]
104.2 FX: FAN FAN FAN [siren]
104.3 FX: PARIN [breaking glass]
104.4 FX: FAN FAN FAN [siren]

105.1 FX: WAAA [yelling]
105.1 FX: KYAAA [screaming]

107.6 FX: PARA PARA [rotors]

108.4 FX: HA [realization]
108.5 FX: GIR [forced movement]

109.2 FX: BA [being hit]
109.2 FX: BA BA BA [hits]

110.2 FX: DOSHA [falling]
110.4 FX: ZURU [sliding]

112.4 FX: BARA [ripping]

114.2 FX: KA [flash]

115.1 FX: OOOOO [roaring]
115.4 FX: ZAWA... [crowd noise]

116.1 FX: ZUZUZUZUZU [rumbling]
116.3 FX: ZUZUZU [rumbling]
116.4 FX: K. [anger]

117.2 FX: BA [explosion]
117.3 FX: DOSA [crashing to earth]
117.3 FX: KA KA [footsteps]

118.5 FX: ZA [footfall]

119.3 FX: BA [dramatic movement]

120.4 FX: BASH [an attack]

85.4 FX: KI [realization]

87.3 FX: BA [dramatic movement]

88.1 FX: DOO [explosion]

89.1 FX: GACHA [wires colliding]

90.3 FX: DA [dash]

91.1 FX: FU [vanishing]

92.1 FX: DOO [explosion]
92.3 FX: GASHAAAAN [sliding]

93.3 FX: FAN FAN FAN [sirens]
93.4 FX: FAN FAN FAN FAN [sirens]
93.5 FX: DOO [explosion]
93.6 FX: KA [footstep]

94.1 FX: KA KA KA KA [footsteps]
94.4 FX: DA [dash]

CHAPTER SEVENTY-FIVE: BYE-BYE

96.1 FX: BI BOOOO BI BOOO [sirens]
96.1 FX: PARA PARA PARA [rotors]
96.3 FX: SU [quick movement]
96.4 FX: BA [dramatic movement]

97.3 FX: BOO [flames]
97.4 FX: DOO [attack]
97.5 FX: FU [quick movement]
97.6 FX: GA [engulfing]

98.1 FX: G R GIRI [quivering]
98.4 FX: BA [dramatic movement]
98.5 FX: DOKA [slam]

99.1 FX: GA [grab]

100.1 FX: KAA [sudden awareness]
100.3 FX: FUWA [waft]

101.2 FX: DON [slam]

102.5 FX: BASHI [colliding]
102.6 FX: KA KA [footsteps]

103.1 FX: KA KA [footsteps]

68.2 FX: NIKO [smile]
68.4 FX: KA KA [footsteps]

69.1 FX: SU [movement]

70.4 FX: BURU BURU [trembling]

71.2 FX: KA [footstep]
71.3 FX: KA KA [footsteps]
71.5 FX: ZUKA ZUKA [quick footfalls]
71.6 FX: HA [alarm]

72.2 FX: DO [explosion]
72.3 FX: KACHA [door opening]
72.4 FX: SORO [looking around]

73.1 FX: PIKU [twitch]

76.3 FX: TSUUN [emotional overload]
76.4 FX: BYUUU [smoke rising]

77.2 FX: DA [dash]
77.4 FX: BAN [explosion]
77.6 FX: BATA BATA [confusion]

78.1 FX: KA KA [footsteps]

80.4 FX: BAN [explosion]
80.5 FX: PARA PARA [debris falling]

81.1 FX: DA [running]

83.1 FX: BAN [explosion]
83.2 FX: ZUZUUUN [falling]

84.2 FX: KA [anger]
84.3 FX: ZURU [sliding down]

37.2 FX: NIKO [smile]
37.5 FX: ZAWA ZAWA [crowd noise]

38.2 FX: BA [snatch]
38.3 FX: ZAWA ZAWA [crowd noise]
39.2 FX: GASHAN [hanging up]
39.4 FX: DOON [bump]

41.1 FX: DOKI [heart beat]
41.2 FX: YORO [swaying]

42.2 FX: GYU... [squeeze]

44.6 FX: DA [dash]

45.3 FX: ZUKI [pain]
45.4 FX: ZUKIN ZUKIN ZUKIN [pain]

46-47.1 FX: UOOOOO [shouting]

48.4 FX: KA KA [footsteps]
48.4 FX: KA KA [footsteps]
48.5 FX: KA KA [footsteps]
48.6 FX: KA KA [footsteps]

49.3 FX: KAHHH [flash]
49.4 FX: BA [explosion]
49.5 FX: BISHA [splatter]

50.5 FX: HA [alarm]

51.2 FX: KASA... [space]

52.3 FX: GABA [recovering]
52.4 FX: BATAN [dropping]

57.2 FX: HA [alarm]

60.2 FX: SUUU [appearance]

CHAPTER SEVENTY FOUR: EVEN IF IT TAKES MY LIFE

62.2 FX: KA [footstep]

64.4 FX: GABA [covering]

65.2 FX: BAN [door opening]
65.3 FX: BA [appearing]

67.3 FX: GYU [clench]

EDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Did you like Fushigi Yugi? Here's what VIZ recommends you try next:

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FROM FAR AWAY

On her way home from school one day, Norko is unexpectedly plunged into a strange and extraordinary fantasy world. Her troubles compound exponentially when she is rescued and befriended by a handsome young man named Izark. He may be brave and courageous, but inside Izark lurks the darkest evil imaginable. And according to an ancient prophecy, Norko possesses the power to unleash that evil. Now, inexorably bound together, these two unlikely allies must navigate a world both wondrous and hostile.

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HERE IS GREENWOOD

Kazuya nearly died in a serious car accident, but even before that, his life was going down the tubes. The woman he loves married his older brother, and the newlyweds came home to live with Kazuya's family. Kazuya decides to escape the house by attending Ryokuta Academy, an exclusive all-male boarding school. But his injuries from the car accident cause Kazuya to arrive at school a month late, so he is forced to live in Greenwood Dorm—the refuge for all the oddballs at Ryokuta. Things are very odd, indeed, when Kazuya is introduced to his new roommate, Shun Kusaragi, who seems to be a girl!?

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RED RIVER

Yuri is ecstatic after passing her college entrance exam and having her first kiss with her childhood friend-turned boyfriend. However, her luck soon changes. She starts to notice that water becomes agitated whenever she goes near it. One night, hands appear out of a puddle on the street and drag her into the water! Transported to an ancient village in the Middle East, she is then captured by armed troops and taken to the Queen's palace as a human sacrifice!

151.1 FX: BA [dramatic movement,
151.2 FX: DO [explosion]

152.3 FX: BASHI [hitting the shield]

153.1 FX: BA [grab]
153.3 FX: BA [dramatic movement]

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SEVEN: A NEW STORY

155.2 FX: DOOOOOO [roaring]

156.1 FX: FU [disappearance]
156.2 FX: DA [dash]
156.3 FX: ZOKI [pain]

157.1 FX: DO [explosive force]

158.3 FX: BABABABABA [rumbling]
158.6 FX: SUUUUU [cleanly restored]

159.1 FX: SUUUUU [cleanly restored]
159.2 FX: MUKU [looking around]
159.4 FX: FUWA [float]
159.5 FX: KAAAAA [emitting light]
159.6 FX: FU [sudden appearance]
159.6 FX: SHULULU [rolling up]

160.3 FX: POTA POTA [dripping]

161.1 FX: WAAAA [shouts]

163.3 FX: GOFU [cough]

164.1 FX: SUUU [vanishing]
164.4 FX: FURA [release of energy]

173.4 FX: KA [flash]

179.3 FX: GYU [grip]

180.3 FX: BAAA [honking]
180.3 FX: BABAAA [honking]
180.4 FX: PAAAAA [bright light]

181.2 FX: NIKO [smile]

184.3 FX: ZA [sunshine]

121.4 FX: HA [alarm]

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SIX: MIRACLE WINGS

123.2 FX: ZUZUZUZUZU [rumbling]
123.4 FX: ZUZU [rumbling]

124.4 FX: GOOOOO [roaring]
124.6 FX: KA KA [flashes]

125.3 FX: FU [appearance]
125.5 FX: KAA [flash]

129.1 FX: KA [flash]
129.4 FX: GOOO [flames]

130.2 FX: SHAN [clanking]
130.4 FX: KA [flash]

132.5 FX: K [sudden determination]

134.1 FX: ZUZUZUZUZU [rumbling]
134.3 FX: KA [flash]

135.3 FX: ZUZU [rumble]

141.1 FX: PAN [explosion]
141.3 FX: MEK, MEK, MEK [creaking]
141.5 FX: ZUUUUUN [falling]

142.2 FX: M N [stopped]

143.1 FX: FUWA [spontaneous combustion]
143.2 FX: BUN [explosion]
143.3 FX: FUWA [wafting]
143.4 FX: KA [flash]
143.5 FX: DOO [flames parting]

144.4 FX: FUWA [wafting]

145.1 FX: ZA [sudden attention]
145.4 FX: YORO [wobble]

148.2 FX: DOOOON [crash]
148.5 FX: KA [flash]

149.1 FX: DO [slam]

150.1 FX: DO [landing]
150.2 FX: SU [sudden movement]
150.5 FX: B SHI BISH [missed attacks]

From the creator of
Ceres and Fushigi Yugi

Alice 19th

Actions Aren't Always Louder Than Words

Alice Seno has always kept her feelings to herself. But an encounter with a magical rabbit shows her how much power words can hold when she accidentally sends her sister to a world of darkness. Can Alice work with her crush (and sister's boyfriend!) and become a master of Lots of Words in time to save her sister?

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Trapped in a strange land, Noriko learns she holds a prophetic power – a power that could destroy the world. Befriended by the handsome and courageous Izark, Noriko realizes she must keep her power secret, or risk her own death. But Izark also has secrets... could his spell her end?

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☐ **Male** ☐ **Female** **Date of Birth** (mm/dd/yyyy): ___/___/____ (Under 13? Parental consent required)

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☐ Special offer ☐ Favorite title ☐ Gift

☐ Recommendation ☐ Other _____

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☐ Online (site: _____)

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AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER

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- *B.B. Explosion*
- *Boys Over Flowers* *
- *Ceres, Celestial Legend* *
- *Descendants of Darkness*
- *Dolls*
- *From Far Away*
- *Fushigi Yûgi*
- *Hana-Kimi*
- *Here Is Greenwood*
- *Hot Gimmick*
- *Imadoki*
- *Kare First Love*
- *Please Save My Earth* *
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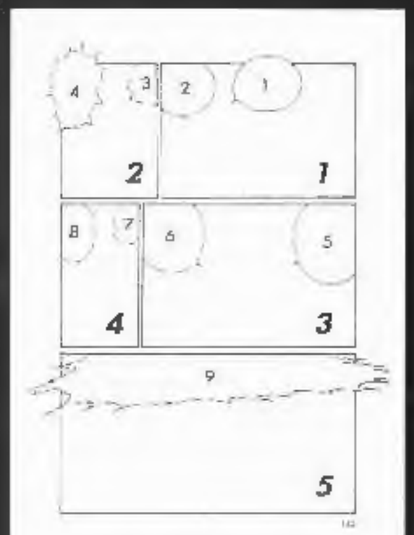

Follow the action this way

This book has been printed in the original Japanese format in order to preserve the orientation of the original artwork. Have fun with it!

How many anime and/or manga titles have you purchased in the last year? How many were VIZ titles? (please check one from each column)

ANIME	MANGA	VIZ
☐ None	☐ None	☐ None
☐ 1-4	☐ 1-4	☐ 1-4
☐ 5-10	☐ 5-10	☐ 5-10
☐ 11+	☐ 11+	☐ 11+

I find the pricing of VIZ products to be: (please check one)

☐ Cheap ☐ Reasonable ☐ Expensive

What genre of manga and anime would you like to see from VIZ? (please check two)

☐ Adventure ☐ Comic Strip ☐ Science Fiction ☐ Fighting
☐ Horror ☐ Romance ☐ Fantasy ☐ Sports

What do you think of VIZ's new look?

☐ Love It ☐ It's OK ☐ Hate It ☐ Didn't Notice ☐ No Opinion

Which do you prefer? (please check one)

☐ Reading right-to-left
☐ Reading left-to-right

Which do you prefer? (please check one)

☐ Sound effects in English
☐ Sound effects in Japanese with English captions
☐ Sound effects in Japanese only with a glossary at the back

THANK YOU! Please send the completed form to:

VIZ

NJW Research
42 Catharine St.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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